

Pollution threatens Lebanon's efforts to build new image

BEIRUT (AFP) — War-battered Lebanon, once the fabled land of milk and honey, has been starkly reminded of the threat to its reconstruction drive posed by pollution, with the recent discovery of dozens of abandoned barrels of hazardous waste.

"Lebanon was green but now it has dried up like a leaf," Health Minister Marwan Hamade complained recently.

Most of the environmental problems facing Lebanon emerged during the country's devastating 1975-1990 civil war, when militias ruled the streets in the absence of a strong central authority.

The conflict ended at a cost of 100,000 lives, the authorities have been slow to tackle the environmental problems still threatening Lebanon, which has an area of 10,452 square kilometres.

Amid large-scale reconstruction work quarries are still being dug out of mountains regardless of the damage they cause, household refuse rots by the roadside, factories continue pouring their waste into waterways and the once scenic coastline is subject to unbridled development.

"We are heading towards an environmental disaster if something is not done quickly," Environment Minister Samir Mokbel told AFP, adding that his main problem since he took up his post 18 months ago was to clean up the Lebanon.

"The first thing we had to do was to teach them what the environment was all about," he said.

Mr. Mokbel pledged that results would begin to emerge in early 1995.

"I am implementing the programme of the Rio summit to tackle pollution, but it is not possible to shut down all the factories," he said.

New factories will need to obtain a green light from his ministry before they start business under a new law

Nigerian con ring dupes S. Arabian businessmen

DAMMAM (AP) — Saudi Arabian businessmen have been swindled out of thousands of dollars by mysterious Nigerians exploiting the political uncertainty in their West African country, business executives said Sunday.

At least four businessmen, who declined to be identified, have been duped, although, two backed out of the phony get-rich-quick scam before they banded over any money.

But two others each sent \$5,000 to the supposed gang as seed money before they realised they were being swindled, business sources said.

One businessman told the Associated Press that the gang bombarded many Saudi companies listed in international business registers with "strictly confidential" telex messages offering an opportunity of "immense interest" because of the political uncertainties in Nigeria.

The faxes said that Nigerians trying to get millions of dollars out of their country for safety through the central bank to the accounts of any-

which is set to be adopted in October.

Parliament is also expected to approve next month a 430-million-dollar project for treating solid waste. The scheme includes the construction of five new incinerators. Only one exists at present.

The government also plans to increase the number of garbage trucks from 108 to 278 in 1995 and garbage containers from 2,760 to 5,200.

"Within three to four years we will solve the problem of household waste once and for all," said Mr. Mokbel, who has been running the Environment Ministry from the offices of his own private business firm.

Milad Jarjui, a chemistry professor and head of a non-governmental organisation, said that "without help from the industrialised nations and international groups we will not be able to overcome our problems."

According to Mr. Jarjui, "no less than 30 severs pour untreated effluent into the sea between Khalde and Jounieh" — two coastal towns 30 kilometres apart.

"Before the war, forests made up 15 per cent of the national territory, but according to the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), forests now cover only seven per cent of Lebanon," Mr. Jarjui said.

"Some of the damage is irreversible but we can still change all that through international assistance and nationwide public awareness," he added.

Mr. Jarjui represented Lebanon at the 1989 Basle conference on the control of the transport of dangerous industrial waste and spearheaded a drive in 1988 to prevent the entry into Lebanon of 16,000 barrels of Italian waste.

Three years later an Australian company, KSK, also tried to dump 100,000 tonnes of sewage in Lebanon, according to a report by Greenpeace.

Prospects dim for early lifting of Iraq sanctions

(Continued from page 12) Iraq has cooperated on weapons.

But MEES pointed out that Washington has also demanded that Iraq demonstrates its "peaceful intentions" in line with the preamble of the resolution.

It also noted, however, that "growing economic interests in Iraq on the part of Russia, France and Turkey," together with the possibility of Iraq joining the Middle East peace process, could create a momentum against Washington's position.

Turkish stand

Turkey's new Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal, who has rattled the West with his hard-line policies, said he is against a U.S.-led air force helping protect Iraqi Kurds from a Turkish base, it was reported Monday.

Mr. Soysal, as a Social Democrat deputy, had been

leading an opposition campaign in the parliament against the air force, which was deployed in 1991 after the Gulf war. He was appointed foreign minister two months ago.

Mr. Soysal said he still believed that the allied force should leave. But he added: "However, saying it should leave does not mean that it will."

The force of 70 U.S., British and French aircraft sets off from Turkey's Incirlik air base daily for reconnaissance flights in the no-fly zone north of the 36th parallel to deter any Iraqi attack on the de-facto Kurdish state set up by Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds with Western support after the Gulf war.

Some critics argue that Turkey's Kurdish rebels operate freely in northern Iraq because of the power vacuum created there after the war.

Turkey is also opposed to

Iraqi Kurdish aspirations for a federal state, fearing its effect on its own restive Kurdish minority.

"The biggest problem about (the operation) from our point of view is that it is preventing us from solving our own problems. It is preventing us from controlling events in northern Iraq," Mr. Soysal said.

Mr. Soysal, who supports the normalisation of ties with Iraq, said the Western allied force was also "preventing our having relations with Baghdad."

Mr. Soysal implied that the issue will amount to a matter of bargaining with the West when its mandate expires at the end of the year.

"For the sake of my country's interest, I will constantly put forward conditions. I will not accept anything unconditional," he added.

In response to a question that Washington appeared to be displeased with his posi-

tion on northern Iraq and Baghdad, Mr. Soysal asked if "his life was going to be spent in trying to please America."

Mr. Soysal recently ordered restrictions of travel from Turkey to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, in a move to express support for the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Kirkuk gas facility

Iraq said it inaugurated Monday a natural gas facility in the northern city of Kirkuk that will carry 100 million cubic feet of gas daily for distribution by the State Organisation for Gas Production.

INA said "Saddam's oil field project" was built despite shortages of materials caused by the U.N. embargo.

The facility was inaugurated by Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad in a ceremony in Kirkuk, which lies in an area rich in oil and gas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab League oppose U.N. resolution change

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and the Arab League opposed Sunday what they said were attempts by Israel and the United States to "remove" U.N. resolutions dealing with the Palestinian cause and the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Egypt has informed the Americans and the Israeli-occupied territories that the resolutions relative to the sovereignty of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, dismantling Israeli settlements, and the occupation of the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon are not to be touched," Egyptian Foreign Minister Adel Mosa said. "Egypt will oppose any American or Israeli initiative to remove these resolutions" at the 49th session of the U.N.'s General Assembly which opened last Tuesday, he said.

The United States and Israel have tried to obtain the removal or modification of these U.N. resolutions at other meetings of the General Assembly, qualifying them as "obsolete" or unsuited to the "new realities" in the Middle East. Arab League Deputy Secretary-General Adnane Omran also said he would oppose any moves to remove the resolutions. "This demand has no judicial foundation," he said. "The resolutions of the U.N., which have not yet been applied, constitute for the Arab negotiators a judicial reference that will help them recover their legitimate rights," Mr. Omran said.

Israeli army bars Likud activists from Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — Israeli troops on Sunday prevented members of the main right-wing opposition party Likud from visiting Hebron in the occupied West Bank, military officials said. The delegation, travelling in eight buses, was stopped at a military roadblock on the edge of Hebron. The Likud activists, including several parliament members, wanted to visit the Ibrahim Mosque, which has been closed since a Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinian worshippers there on 25 Deputy Uzi Landau accused the government of using the army "for political ends."

General Ilan Biran, commander of the central region which includes the West Bank, appealed to party leaders on television "not to put the army at the centre of political disputes." But he stressed that decisions whether to allow Israeli demonstrations in the West Bank were taken "purely on security grounds." Gen. Biran said a special border guards unit would be responsible for security at the site, and would start training there next week. After the massacre the Israeli authorities decided to carry out work at the site to keep Jewish and Muslim worshippers apart. Gen. Biran said most of the work had been completed.

Iran, Turkey to shut out each other's rebels

NICOSIA (R) — Senior officials from Iran and Turkey agreed in Tehran on Sunday to stop opposition groups operating on each other's territory, Iranian radio said. "Turkey will not permit various groups opposing... Iran to be active in Turkey," the radio quoted Turkish Deputy Interior Minister Bekir Aksoy as saying after the meeting.

The broadcast was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. "Opponents of Turkey's government will be prevented from engaging in activities in Iran," the radio quoted Mr. Aksoy's Iranian counterpart Ali Reza Tabesh as saying. Turkey is fighting Kurdish separatist guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party in a 10-year war which has claimed at least 12,900 lives. Relations between Turkey and Iran have improved since Iran began helping Turkey against the Kurdish rebels in 1993. Iran, which has its own Kurdish minority, also wants Turkey to check the activities on its soil of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, an Iranian opposition group which keeps an army equipped with tanks in Iraq. Security consultations between the two countries stem from an accord signed in 1992.

Australia to send observers to Gaza, Jericho

CAIRO (AFP) — Australia has agreed to join an international observer force for the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho, Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said here Sunday. Speaking after a week-long visit to Australia, Dr. Shaath said the decision followed an official Palestinian request. It would still have to be endorsed by the Australian parliament. Dr. Shaath said Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans had accepted an invitation to visit the Palestinian self-rule areas at the beginning of next year. He discussed opportunities for Australian investment in Gaza and the Jericho enclave in the West Bank, and "increasing aid" from Canberra for the self-rule areas. Under the Cairo accord which launched self-rule on May 4, a temporary international presence consisting of 400 observers from donor countries will be deployed for a six-month period, which may be renewed, in Gaza and Jericho. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed to ask Canada, Finland, Australia, Norway and two as yet unspecified European Union countries to finance the force.

Two tourists killed in jet ski crash

ANKARA (AP) — Two tourists were killed Friday in a high speed jet ski crash at the southern seaside resort town of Marmaris. British embassy official said Sunday. Jane Baker, age 21, from Ireland and Peter Everett, 22, from England were killed while racing on jet skis off a crowded beach near the town centre, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Two other English tourists, Paul Stephen Grundy, 28, and Dianne Thornton, 24, were injured in the accident. A Turkish court on Sunday arrested Mr. Grundy, a Manchester resident, on charges of causing the accident and sent him to a jail on the Aegean coastal city of Mugla, the Antolia news agency reported. No charges were brought against Ms. Thornton who was released from the hospital on Sunday, it added.

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Ankara ... 8:30 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ... 5:30 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Ankara ... 5:30 p.m. every Sunday

MARKEET PRICES

Uppercase price in lire per kg

Apples ... 700/800
Bananas ... 250/300
Bananas (Mukamas) ... 250/300

Cabbage ... 110/120

Carrot ... 200/250

Cauliflower ... 200/250

Chickpeas (large) ... 280/300

Coconut (small) ... 280/300

Eggsplant ... 280/300

Garlic ... 900/1000

Grapes (Hilvan) ... 520/550

Guava ... 200/250

Lemon ... 200/250

Marrow (large) ... 140/160

Marrow (small) ... 340/360

Mushroom ... 180/200

Onion (dry) ... 320/350

Onion (green) ... 320/350

Pepper (hot) ... 300/320

Pepper (sweet) ... 300/320

Pomegranate ... 320/350

Spinach ... 300/320

Tomato ... 150/170

String beans ... 750/800

Watermelon ... 200/250

Yogurt ... 100/120

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 685446

Dr. Shabash Al Zayed 737774

Dr. Mohammad Al Nahawi 619213

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 776333

Al Asema pharmacy 670753

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yusouf pharmacy 636945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nasrouf pharmacy 623672

Najah pharmacy 847632

Min./Max. temp.

Temperature will drop further below below average with clouds appearing at different altitudes. There will also be a chance of scattered showers with winds western moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Faqih 906130

Khalilah pharmacy 983417

Yordan Valley 23/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 33. Humidity: Amman 36, Aqaba 42 per cent.

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

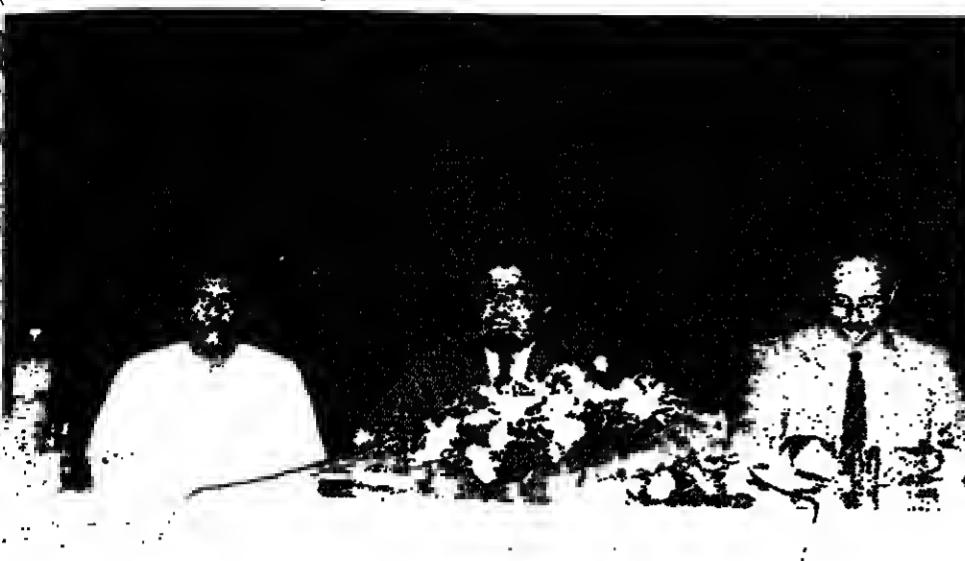
AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111



Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh presides over a meeting of school directors in the Nuzha district of Amman Monday. (Petra photo)

Government to provide JD 10-20m as loan to teachers housing fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Monday announced that the government will loan between JD 0-20 million to the teachers housing fund enabling the educators to finance their own housing units.

Speaking at a meeting attended by directors of schools in the Greater Amman region, Mr. Rawabdeh

said that each teacher would be able to borrow up to JD 12,000 for housing, adding that the funds' lending regulations will be relaxed, so that the teachers will be able to obtain interest-free loans for their respective projects.

There is a need for the government to re-examine the current professional allowance given to teachers, said the minister.

Seminar seeks to bridge gap between media, human rights

By Khattab Salman special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A workshop on media and human rights" included Monday in Amman with the participation of media representatives, deputies and union chairmen in an effort to bridge the gap between the mass media and human rights movements.

The one-day workshop, which was organised by Amnesty International Jordan through its information and public relations committee, included three sessions.

The morning session discussed a working paper submitted by Chairman of the Jordan Bar Association Kamal Nasser on "Jordanian legislation concerning media and human rights."

Dr. Nasser said in his paper that the legislator in Jordan went alongside the International Declaration of Human Rights which guaranteed the freedom of expression to all including the pursuit of information and publishing of through any chosen medium.

But the third article of the declaration connected these rights with special duties and responsibilities of every country. These special features are of national security, social norms and general

order maintenance purposes," he said.

He added that these special features were "too loose," and national legislations managed to violate the freedom of expression using the pretext of national security.

The Jordanian legislator through the Constitution and the Press and Publications Law of 1993 is similar in the rights and duties guaranteed to all, but the law introduced exceptions for the freedom of expression. These exceptions are related to religious prejudice (Article 278), hindering justice (Article 224), embargoed material of interrogation statements (Article 225), and slander and defamation related issues (Article 188)" he said.

Mr. Muhtasib pointed out that as we are preparing to enter the 21st century, we should transform our mass media stations real pulpits and citadels encompassing all political orientations and discussing any domestic, regional and international issues free of censorship.

He called in his recommendations for raising the number of radio stations, more human rights violations monitoring in Jordan, holding seminars of related issues, more research work on the topic of human rights and the mass media, and enabling all political currents to practice their freedom of speech by easing government control over radio and television.

The workshop was opened by Nidal Mansour of Amnesty/Jordan, Senator Layla Sharaf and Tawfiq Abu Baker and "media and human rights" was presented by Mohammad Muhtasib.

Mr. Muhtasib, of Yarmouk University, said that radio and television in the Arab

Experts to examine current trends in electoral systems

AMMAN (J.T.) — Political science and election administration experts will come together for a two-day conference, Sept. 28-29, to examine various aspects of electoral experience.

The conference, titled "Current Trends in Electoral Systems," has been co-organised by the New Jordan Research Centre and the National Democratic Institute.

Top GIA leader killed in Algeria

(Continued from page 1)

politics and recently recorded a song mocking the fundamentalist extremists.

In 1988, he was wounded in the stomach by several bullets fired by police during rioting in the town of Gabye.

But he miraculously survived his injuries, which only served to boost his tough image.

Matouh, in his last record, paid tribute to the reporters and intellectuals murdered by Muslim militants.

One of his songs was entitled "Kenza," the name of his daughter of Tahar Djedid, the first journalist murdered on May 26, 1993.

A fervent backer of the Berber language, Mr. Matouh in his record also derided the Arabic language as "uninteresting" and criticised Algeria's educational

More than 40 participants from Jordan, Egypt, France, South Africa, Tunisia and the U.K. will address the Jordanian electoral experience with regard to other cases in the Arab World and worldwide.

The last session of the day will look at the function of election authorities.

The second day will host papers considering the role of the mass media in the electoral process and issues of "Public Confidence, Legitimacy and Informed Participation."

The conference will culminate with two sessions regarding the electoral development in Jordan, specifically one-person, one-vote and voter registration procedures, and finally the quota system and electoral boundaries.

The conference will be held at the Jerusalem International Hotel, Amman and the opening event will be conducted by Taher Masri, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

Gousmi, named as the leader or caliph of an alternative caliphate government set up by the GIA in August, was appointed to lead the GIA a few weeks after the security forces killed Mourad Si Ahmed, known as Djafar Si Ahmed, in February this year.

Informed sources said the hardline fundamentalist was killed in Saoula in southern Algeria.

APU chief says government differences should not affect work of parliaments

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) Secretary General Mohammad Khalifeh Monday said in Amman that political differences among Arab governments should not affect the work of Arab parliaments.

Speaking at a meeting with the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masri, Mr. Khalifeh said Arab parliaments, which are APU members, represent Arab peoples and not governments, and should be insulated from inter-governmental differences and be able to pool efforts to bolster relations among all the parliaments in the Arab World.

In presenting an outline of the APU's activities and tasks, Mr. Khalifeh said efforts are under way to modernise and upgrade the APU's general secretariat financially and administratively.

Mr. Khalifeh, who is also speaker of the Sudanese national assembly, urged the convening of an APU meeting as soon as possible. The union has not met since before the Gulf crisis.

In response, Mr. Masri said Jordan's Parliament was willing to assist in any way to stimulate the APU's activities.

GETTING ON-LINE:

U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan (second right), UNRWA Affairs Director in Jordan Ele Saaf (left) and UNRWA Education Director Naceur Bonchouchi (centre) look on as students in Baqaa camp try out a new computer at the 23-classroom school opened at the camp Monday by Mr. Egan. The building also consists of four administrative rooms, a library, a computer centre, multi-purpose room, laboratory and other facilities. The school operates on a double shift basis, serving some 2,250 pupils with 60 teachers. The U.S. government financed the construction and equipped the school at a cost of \$769,000. UNRWA runs 201 schools in Jordan, and provides 10 years of schooling to more than 152,000 refugee children, with a teaching staff of 4,400.



Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi (second right) Monday reviews issues of mutual concern

Mr. Khalifeh, who is currently on tour of the Arab World to prepare for an APU meeting probably in Morocco, met earlier with Speaker

of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi and discussed inter-Arab parliamentary affairs.

Mr. Lawzi told Mr. Khalifeh that through the APU

Arab parliaments can help end differences among Arab governments and re-establish solidarity among their states.

Mr. Khalifeh, who came

here from Syria, said his tour aimed at promoting APU role in stimulating collective Arab action on the political front.



Research centre protests closure of its offices

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After the Amman Governorate ordered the closure of Al Urdun Al Jadid (New Jordan) Research Centre briefly last week for not having a licence by the Department of Press and Publications (DPP), the centre issued a statement protesting the action.

The private foundation, which conducts research and seminars on Jordan's politics, called the closure "an extreme action, taken without any warning," which caused the centre "both financial and intangible damages, and insult."

The closure, imposed last Monday and Tuesday, was lifted on Wednesday and Al Urdun Al Jadid finally obtained the licence, required under the 1993 Press and Publications laws, from the DPP.

The press statement was signed by Centre Director Hani Hourani.

A governorate official sharply objected to the allegations.

"Mr. Hourani was given more than ample chance to fulfil all his legal requirements under the press laws, and has no right to make this complaint," said Ahmad Shatnawy, head of the governorate's Political and Legal Affairs Department.

The press statement alleged the closure was part

of a series of "dubious goings-on" over the last two months, resulting from "the belief of some that the centre's activities, and perhaps the activities of numerous other social organisations, should be confined according to a ceiling drawn by official circles," and be "subject to their surveillance."

The statement did not give specifics on the alleged clampdown. But Mr. Hourani told the Jordan Times he viewed the conditions of the new licence as "unnecessarily restrictive and impractical."

The licence stipulates that any publication or seminar dissertation to be used by Al Urdun Al Jadid must be submitted to the Department of Press and Publications for approval no less than two weeks before it is to be published or presented.

Officials at the DPP were not immediately available for comment.

Mr. Shatnawy stated emphatically that the governorate, for its part, had never aimed to hamper the centre.

"We have no wish to punish Mr. Hourani, but the law is the law, and we are required to execute it without prejudice," he said. Under the press laws, it is clearly illegal for a centre engaging in political activities to be operational on no more than a commercial licence from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, as had been the case with Al Urdun Al Jadid, and the governorate was legally required to take action, he explained.

Mr. Hourani insisted that the closure "was simply not our fault."

"We had submitted an application for the licence on Aug. 18," he said, but the department delayed beyond a legally allotted period of one month before issuing its verdict.

The delay then "provided the governor with the conditions to order the closing," although the centre had previously informed him about its situation with the department, according to the press statement.

Mr. Shatnawy denied that the governorate had sought a hasty shutdown of the centre, pointing out that instead of closing it permanently last week, it granted a two-week grace period to obtain the licence.

He added that the governorate had been more than lenient on one previous occasion, when Al Urdun Al Jadid failed to officially register an Aug. 17 seminar at the Forte Grand Hotel on election plans for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

The failure to register the seminar with the governorate was a clear violation of existing laws on public

gatherings, he said, but the governorate decided to "let the incident go."

Since Al Urdun Al Jadid began functioning in January 1993, it has published at least 10 research studies and held seven seminars.

Its work has focused primarily on Jordan's election processes and political parties.

Its executive and "scientific" committees include Taher Masri, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Musa Keilani, chief editor of Al-Dustour, and several other prominent government and academic figures.

As to why the centre never submitted an application for the new licence until over a year after the issuance of the press laws, the press statement maintained that delays and entanglements at the DPP had nixed repeated requests to apply for the licence which had been made even since the new laws came out in May last year.

On several occasions, Mr. Hourani said, department employees told him flatly that the new licence was "simply not immediately necessary."

Mr. Shatnawy said Mr. Hourani could not so easily cite official channels as being the cause of the delay.

"We had warned Mr. Hourani a full three months ago that he should

put his papers in order, and sent him to the Department of Press and Publications," he said.

Mr. Shatnawy said the governorate also developed concerns about Al Urdun Al Jadid's activities after public protests over a June workshop held by the centre, for Jordanian activists.

Several journalists and party leaders strongly objected that the conference was held in cooperation with Germany's Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and that a number of German politicians were brought in to participate.

Opponents felt that the never submitted an application for the new licence until over a year after the issuance of the press laws, the press statement maintained that delays and entanglements at the DPP had nixed repeated requests to apply for the licence which had been made even since the new laws came out in May last year.

The centre's press statement referred to those protests as "wrongful attacks by some groups and individuals" which "gave concerned circles the confidence that they are capable of isolating our centre and severely limiting its activities."

Mr. Shatnawy said the governorate simply wished to avoid "further complaints" about the issue, and was for its own part genuinely concerned about such foreign involvements.

"After these complaints," he said, "we became more careful to ensure that the centre's standing is legally sound."

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY
★ Play in Arabic entitled "The Body Test/The Existence" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

FILMS

★ French film entitled "L'Argent" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

★ Spanish film entitled "Alzame" at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) at 6:00 p.m. (Tel 610858)

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Palestinian Democracy from the Forest of Guns to the Forest of Interests" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

NEWS

★ ABC News Highlights and MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ah'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 814257).

★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Donation" by Laila Bustami at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Plague cases spread in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Suspected plague cases multiplied across western India Monday as officials redoubled efforts to track down "human bomb" carriers of the disease and foreign nations moved to examine Indian travellers.

A 28-year-old man who had fled the infected city of Surat and was being treated for the plague died in a hospital in Dholka district, 200 kilometres east of Surat, the Press Trust of India said.

One of several hundred patients being treated for plague symptoms died in a hospital in Rajkot, 250 kilometres west of Surat, the news agency said. Nineteen patients with plague symptoms were admitted to hospital in Bombay, 270 kilometres south of Surat.

"Their condition is somewhat stable but not very good," an official at Bombay's Kasturba Hospital said. "We are prepared to treat more patients if they come for admission and we are expecting that too."

Six patients with plague symptoms were reported to be in isolation in Ahmedabad, 200 kilometres north of Surat.

The Health Minister of Rajasthan state, north of the plague's centre in Gujarat state, told United News of

India that two people among the more than 300,000 who fled Surat had tested positive for plague in two towns in his state.

Plague worries spread outside of India's borders.

The United Arab Emirates decided to require all passengers from India to submit to medical checkups upon entering the Gulf state, according to local newspapers.

Indian newspapers reported that U.S. health officials would monitor airports to pinpoint any plague cases among passengers coming from infected areas of India.

Authorities in the capital, New Delhi, and Surat, a centre for diamonds and artificial silk, said two outbreaks of plague — one bubonic, the other pneumonic — were under control and could be cured by antibiotics if victims sought help quickly.

The bubonic type, spread by fleas that bite infected rodents, struck more than 90 people in Maharashtra state east of Bombay last week. It was brought under control with insecticide spraying and antibiotics for victims.

But the pneumonic variety then hit Surat, killing 46 people by official count over the past week — up from 44 early Monday morning — and dozens more by unofficial

estimates.

Authorities worry that some of the hundreds of thousands of people who escaped from Surat were infected with pneumonic plague, which can destroy a victim's lungs if not treated and is spread between humans through contaminated sputum.

More than 100 plague patients, ignoring doctors' orders, fled from quarantine in Surat civil hospital over the weekend without having been cured.

Paramilitary forces were sent to track down the victims — whom health officials in Surat called "human bombs" — and four were hauled back to the hospital late Sunday.

State and municipal governments across the country took emergency steps to contain the spread of the disease.

Rajasthan set up checkpoints at entry points into the state and trucks were inspected for rodents. The state also barred entry of all food to Gujarat for a week.

Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh states both moved to screen all people coming from Gujarat state by train or bus.

Several districts far from Surat closed schools, cinemas and public meeting places for a week.

Each hospital in New Delhi was told to set up an isolation ward and around-the-clock control rooms to take in potential victims. A campaign to clean up garbage was promised.

Delhi's government also decided to set up plague control rooms at airports, railway stations and interstate bus terminals.

South Korea and Hong Kong have begun monitoring arrivals from India to prevent the deadly pneumonic plague outbreak from entering their territories.

But most Asian countries have adopted a wait and see policy in reaction to the plague which has hit the western Indian city of Surat.

Indian officials said Sunday that the outbreak, which has left up to 75 people dead, is under control.

South Korean airports and other gateways have been ordered to tighten medical checks for Indians and other foreign travellers coming from areas affected by the disease, health officials in Seoul said.

Hong Kong Health Department decided after an emergency meeting to put a watch on travellers from India, and also warned people against visiting the affected regions.



Women set fire to heaps of uncollected garbage. Doctors says the plague is caused by rats who by a roadside in Surat, where an epidemic of pneumonic plague has killed scores of people. (AFP photo)

Senior Pakistani police officer killed

KARACHI (AFP) — A senior police officer and his driver were gunned down by three unidentified assailants here Monday, police said.

District Superintendent Imdad Ali Khatami was shot and injured shortly after leaving his house in the city's troubled central district. His driver was killed on the spot and Khatami died on his way to hospital, police said.

Attacks on police officers and police stations have been on the rise this year. Eight

policemen and paramilitary troops, including a senior police officer and a Ranger captain were killed in an ambush in March and another senior police officer and five of his men were killed in an ambush in June.

Several police stations have been attacked at least three times during the same period.

The army meanwhile launched another arms recovery campaign in the city's eastern district. Troops cordoned off

Shah Faisal Colony in an operation similar to the one conducted last week in the Lines area.

Officials said 48 handguns and rifles had already been recovered during Monday's operation and their owners were being checked for licenses. At least 20 people have been taken in for questioning, officials added.

More than 300 unlicensed weapons were recovered in last week's operation and six people were arrested.

Relief efforts in full swing as Papua New Guinea volcanoes calm

PONT MORESBY (R) — Australian and U.S. Air Force planes helped ferry food, shelter and medical supplies to volcano victims in Papua New Guinea Monday as the week-long eruptions continued to subside.

Two Australian cargo planes flew up to eight loads into the volcano-ravaged east of New Britain Island and three U.S. Air Force planes are flying from Okinawa in Japan to join the emergency operations, code-named Operation Unity.

International and local donations are helping support disaster relief efforts for the volcano-hit town of Rabaul. Workers hurried to rebuild the grass airstrip at Tokua, 30 kilometres from Rabaul.

Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan, who inspected the damage by helicopter, said he was appalled at the havoc caused by the eruptions, which began Monday last week and continued through-

out the week.

"It will be quite some time before any real reconstruction and restoration programme can take hold," Sir Julius told reporters.

"For quite a number of people it will be their whole lives lost. But we will rise from the asphalt to rebuild a township close to that area or thereabouts in the not too distant future."

More than 30,000 people were evacuated from Rabaul, the main trading port for the New Guinea Islands, and thousands of others nearby villages were forced to flee as clouds of volcanic dust spread.

For the past week the two volcanoes, situated on either side of Rabaul Harbour, have billowed huge clouds of volcanic ash that have settled on the town more than a metre deep in some places.

The Rabaul Chamber of Commerce estimates 70 per cent of buildings have been damaged, some totally flattened.

tended under the weight of the ash. The property repair bill is expected to exceed 100 million kina (\$91 million).

Vehicles, aircraft and other equipment in the town have also been ruined by the ash and gangs of looters have stolen merchandise from shops and vandalised property.

Government spokesman Ian Boden told Reuters that on Tuesday Rabaul's residents and property owners would be allowed back into the devastated town, which is blocked off by army and police.

"It's recognised people who have a legitimate reason to go into Rabaul should be encouraged as they can clear the ash off their buildings and maybe prevent them caving in," Mr. Boden said.

He said supplies of food and clean water were starting to reach the evacuees, many of whom are living in makeshift care centres in nearby villages.



Black and white Swiss citizens cast their ballots in a referendum on ratification of the U.N. anti-racism convention. Swiss voters approved the referendum. (AFP photo)

Swiss reject racial discrimination

BERN (AP) — Swiss voters approved a ban on racial discrimination after a bitter campaign in which right-wing opponents called the measure a U.N. muzzle on free speech.

The government-supported ban, which covers all forms of racism including belittling of the holocaust, gained from a razor-thin lead earlier in the day to receive a final 55 per cent approval.

Supporters of the ban said the high number of no-votes dampedened their pleasure over the results. With 44.3 per cent of the country's voters participating in the three-day referendum, some

1,125,154 voted in favour of the ban and 933,501 against.

"I'm satisfied, but not happy," said Rosmarie Dornmann, a member of parliament and president of the "yes to the anti-racism law" committee. She said opponents held a range of views and those with anti-foreign sentiments made up only a small part.

Supporters had feared a rejection that would embarrass Switzerland, reinforcing a series of isolationist votes in recent years that have mixed closer links with the European Union and the United Nations.

The Swiss, whose constitu-

tion allows them to overturn government decisions, were voting on the country's ratification of the 1965 U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racism.

The government said the measure was needed to close a loophole and ban discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, national origin or religion.

It also would forbid public attempts to incite or spread hatred or discrimination, ban public expressions that injured human dignity and make it a crime to justify, deny or minimise acts of genocide.

The Swiss, whose constitu-

Giscard d'Estaing ready to stand in elections

PARIS (AFP) — Former French president, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, said Sunday he could stand in France's May 1995 presidential elections if no other candidates from his party comes forward.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing is president of the liberal Union for French Democracy (UDF), one of the two key parties in the French government, the other being the neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR).

"A major party with no candidate at a presidential election has no raison d'être" said Mr. Giscard d'Estaing in interviews with French radio and the Le Monde newspaper.

"Every major party has a duty to put forward a candidate," he added.

"At the present time the RPR has put forward two candidates" said the former French president, allying to French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and RPR leader Jacques Chirac.

Neither Mr. Chirac nor Mr. Balladur have so far officially announced their candidature.

At the RPR party conference, currently being held in Colmar, eastern France, Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac have made veiled criticisms of each other, without openly admitting they are in competition.

"It will be our way of showing how our grit can

Simpson jury to be picked under TV ban

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson goes on trial in what has been billed as the murder case of the century, but millions captivated by the courtroom drama may be disappointed — the next episode won't be televised.

By court order, the cameras that captured the football superstar's every grimace during three months of trial hearings have been unplugged for jury selection, the official opening of the sensational double-murder trial.

Under a radio and TV blackout, prosecutors and defense attorneys, who have been battling it out in the court of public opinion, will

face off in a downtown courtroom to begin picking the 12 jurors who will decide Simpson's fate.

Even so, reporters, photographers and camera crews from around the world have converged on the criminal courts building, where towering broadcast platforms, miles of cable and dozens of satellite dishes have sprung

up almost overnight.

On the eve of trial, Simpson — confined to a 6-by-9-foot (2-by-3-metre) jail cell — was putting his trust in prayer, said former football star Rosey Grier.

"He's praying for a friend of his that has cancer," Rev. Grier, now an ordained minister, told reporters after a Sunday jailhouse visit. "If you reach out and touch someone else's life, that's investing in your own life."

Prosecution and defense teams each huddled to plot strategy for what is expected to be the most tedious and critical phase of the trial proceedings.

But after months of anonymous leaks and media frenzy surrounding the hall of fame running back, legal experts wonder whether it is still possible to find an impartial jury to bear the case.

Simpson — a football hero turned actor and advertising pitchman — is charged with the savage June 12 slayings of his beautiful ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and aspiring model Ronald Gold-

man, 25, who were found lying in a pool of blood outside their Brentwood townhouse.

He has declared himself "absolutely 100 per cent not guilty."

Hope to catch the prosecution off guard, Simpson's all-star defence team is rushing the case to trial scarcely 100 days after charges were filed.

Overshadowing the start of jury selection is a judge's threat to ban all television coverage of the trial because of what he called false and prejudicial news reports.

In an effort to shield prospective jurors from the media glare, Superior Court Judge Lance Ito has already barred cameras and microphones from the courtroom while the panel is being picked — a process expected to take up to a month.

The celebrity murder case, complete with lurid tales of high living, wife beating and grisly slayings, has unleashed an unprecedented media blitz.

Want to take the campaign to the streets?"

A former labour leader and lathe operator, Mr. Lula has promised to redistribute the wealth in a country with one of Latin America's biggest gaps between rich and poor.

"To run this country one doesn't need a doctorate in economics, one needs a degree in sensitivity," Mr. Lula told the crowd. "That is why what this country needs is not a sociologist, it needs a lathe operator."

Mr. Lula's aides have planned large campaign rallies in major cities around the country.

"If we can force a second round, the election will start all over again from zero," said Lula's spokesman Ricardo Kotscho. "That's why we

want to take the campaign to the streets."

Work on ensuring a smooth transition has virtually halted. The row is holding up the funding of a new airport and delaying a container port.

Optimism in Hong Kong in the 1980s was fuelled by China's steady opening up and the advance of Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms. But thousands more people rushed to emigrate after the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing in 1989.

Government figures show that 66,000 emigrated in the peak year of 1992 and 53,000 in 1993. The estimate for the whole of this year is 50,000.

Governor Patten urged China Monday to abandon megaphone diplomacy and work harder with Britain on preparing Hong Kong's historic July 1997 change of sovereignty.

A long-term study into the transition, started in 1989 by local academics, concluded that satisfaction with the Chinese government remains well below the level of satisfaction enjoyed by the Hong Kong government, coordinator Michael De Golyer said.

The long and bitter Sino-British dispute has "affected the trust of the Hong Kong people towards the PRC (People's Republic of China) government and this bodes most ill for the future," the study said in a report dated Sept. 15.

Relations soured over

Governor Chris Patten's efforts to introduce greater democracy before the handover. His electoral reforms were passed in July in the face of Chinese fury.

Ways to improve the re-

lationship will figure high on the agenda when British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who visited Hong Kong two weeks ago, sees Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in New York last

week.

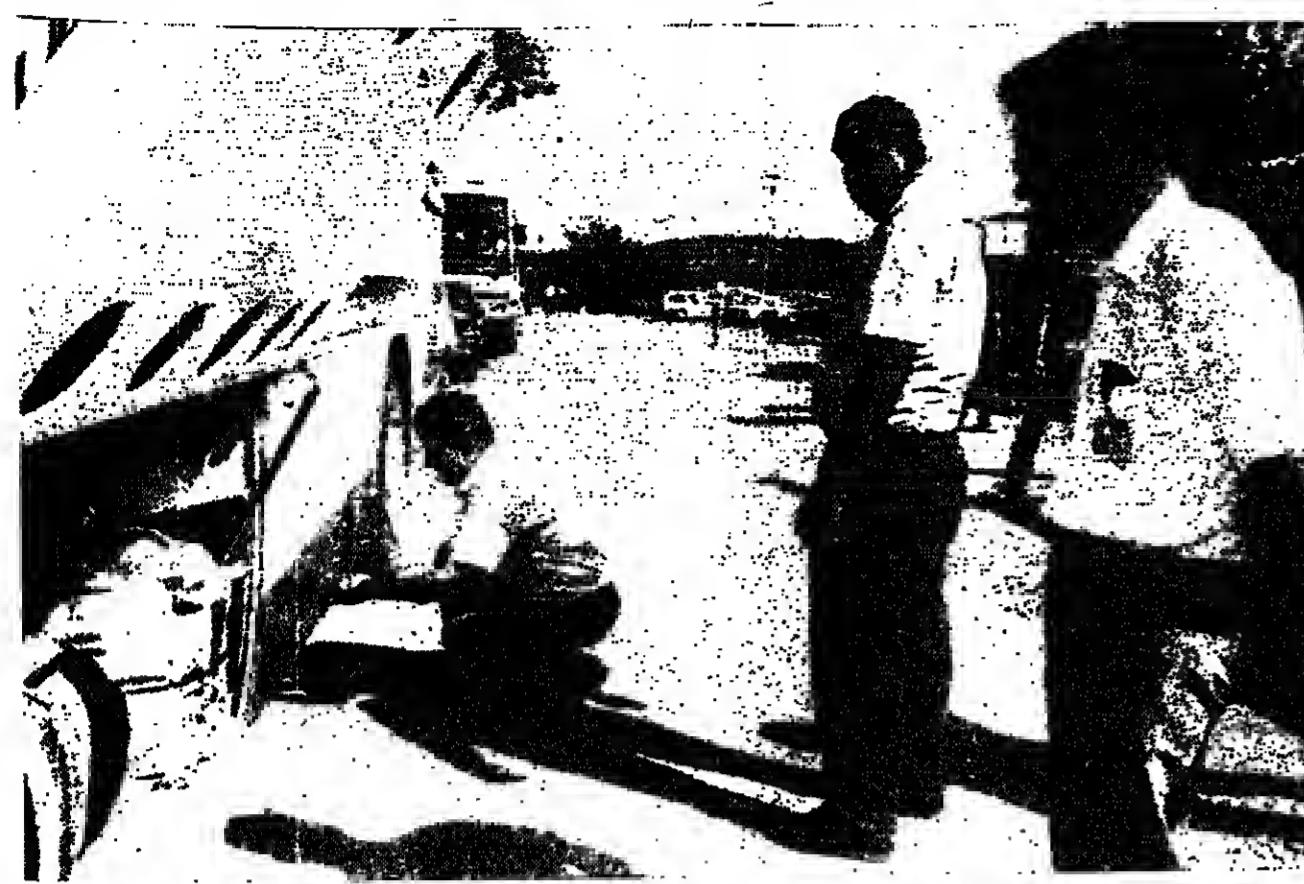
Mr. Patten added that he would be "setting out some of our thoughts" on how to improve the transition process when he makes his annual policy address to the Legislative Council on Oct. 5.

Last week, China's top official in Hong Kong, Zhou Nan, implicitly blamed Mr. Patten for souring Sino-British relations, saying that in the first years after the September 1984 signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, China and Britain had been able to consult each other on transition matters.

Mr. Zhou, a career diplomat who heads the Hong Kong branch of the Xinhua News Agency, said China's 90-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping was correct in predicting there would be "trouble" during the run-up to 1997.

Mr. Patten, however, rejected claims that Britain was responsible for upsetting Hong Kong's future.

"If you look at what Hong Kong has achieved in the last 10 years," he said, "how can you believe some of the pretty



International observers inspect the luggage space of a Bosnian Serb bus on the Yugoslav-Bosnian border crossing of Sremica. Observers in rump-Yugoslavia are to check on sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs (AFP photo)

Claes to be NATO secretary-general

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Willy Claes, the Belgian foreign minister, is to become the next secretary-general of NATO after securing the support of all 16 members of the Alliance, NATO and diplomatic sources said here Monday.

An informal meeting of the member countries' ambassadors, called at short notice, endorsed the 55-year-old as the man to succeed Manfred Woerner to the top non-military job in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Mr. Woerner died of cancer in August and his position has been filled on an interim basis since then by Italy's Sergio Balanzino.

Mr. Claes, a piano-playing Flemish Socialist, was left with a clear run at the post when former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Eilemann-Jensen announced he was not putting himself forward.

"The race was lost and it was too late to present my candidacy," Mr. Eilemann-Jensen said in Copenhagen. "I learned that other (NATO) countries had backed the Belgian candidate Willy Claes. I took note of that without bitterness or rancor."

The Danish government led by Social Democrat Poul Nyrup Rasmussen had been prepared to back the candidacy of Mr. Eilemann-Jensen, a fierce political foe.

Norwegian candidate Thorvald Stoltenberg, the

U.N. mediator in the former Yugoslavia, withdrew Friday, by which time it was apparent Mr. Claes was romping down the home straight.

Applications for the post close Tuesday and official confirmation of Mr. Claes' nomination could come Thursday when NATO foreign ministers meet informally on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

In turn, Mr. Claes' success is expected to see another Belgian, Marc Eyskens, drop out of the race for the vacant position as secretary-general of the Western European Union, leaving Italy's ambassador to NATO, Giovanni Jannuzzi, as favourite.

Mr. Claes, who has been Mr. Dehaene's foreign minister since 1992, will bring a wealth of ministerial experience and contacts to the NATO job, although he has never held a defence portfolio.

Mr. Claes, who is considered a good enough orchestra conductor to have been a professional, funded his way through political science studies by playing in a jazz band.

He has barely looked back since, becoming a government minister for the first time in 1972 when he took charge of education at the tender age of 33 and going on to hold a wide variety of mainly economic, portfolios.

Mr. Claes, who is likely to be appointed for a nominal four years, will need all that experience as he seeks to build on the start Mr. Woerner made to the task of adapting an alliance born out of the cold war to a world without iron curtains.

Tradition has it that the secretary-general's job goes to a European while the principle military positions in the alliance are occupied by Americans.

Mr. Claes' campaign received unequivocal backing from Italy, Spain, France and

Top U.S.-N. Korea negotiators meet on nuclear pact

GENEVA (R) — Top U.S. and North Korean negotiators met Monday in a fourth day of talks to try to reach agreement on restructuring Pyongyং's atomic power industry and lift worries that it is making a nuclear bomb.

U.S. Ambassador-at-large Robert Gallucci and a small team of experts met Pyongyং's delegation headed by Kang Sok-Ju at North Korea's mission in Geneva.

It was the first time the two men had met since the current round of talks opened Friday and the first since Pyongyং threatened to pull out of the negotiations because of U.S. naval exercises off its eastern coast.

Neither side made any comment before the talks, which followed several meetings over the weekend between technical specialists from the two sides on replacing North Korea's graphite reactors with a light-water variety.

Light-water reactors produce little of the plutonium which can be used in producing nuclear weapons.

The United States and its allies fear Communist North Korea may have used radioactive material from its one working reactor in secret nuclear arms production.

A North Korean official said he understood "some progress" had been made in clearing up what both sides have made clear are big differences on the project and on how Pyongyং can end nuclear tension in East Asia by proving it has not made weapons.

He said the delegations would break for lunch and might reconvene later but it was unclear if Mr. Gallucci and Mr. Kang would meet again Monday.

The experts have given their opinions after the weekend meetings and it is now up to the heads of delegation to look at them together, he said.

The weekend talks carried on despite loud rumblings from the Pyongyং government over the deployment of U.S. warships in the Sea of Japan and threats that it might withdraw from the talks and end its current freeze on its nuclear power programme.

But officials from the two countries, bitter enemies since the 1950-53 Korean War, indicated there was little danger of the negotiating round collapsing.

The technical experts met over the weekend to try to clear some of the hurdles before a final document can be produced. Both sides want to finalise an agreement by the end of the week.

After negotiations in Geneva last month, Pyongyং agreed to freeze construction of two new graphite reactors in return for a U.S. pledge that, with other countries, it would help to replace them with a light-water variety — at an estimated cost of \$4 billion.

The two sides now disagree over conditions for the exchange and on how North Korea would be compensated for the energy lost from the cancellation of its existing nuclear programme.

Bosnian Muslims win U.N. support over arms embargo

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's Muslim leaders won a renewed commitment from U.S. President Bill Clinton to end the arms embargo they say has tied their hands through two and a half years of war.

But U.S. officials, aware of the damage to international unity on Bosnia that a lifting of the embargo would cause, said they may delay a vote on the arms ban and hoped that in any case the Bosnians would agree not to press the issue.

The French newspaper *Le Monde* said the Bosnian Muslims had backed away from their demand for an immediate end to the embargo and did not want it removed until next spring at the earliest, even if they were not ready to say so publicly.

In Sarajevo, gas supplies returned falteringly to parts of the city Monday after Bosnian Serbs agreed to ease the utilities blockade that has blighted life in the capital for the past 11 days.

The airport, the city's main aid gateway, remained closed after a Bosnian Serb officer warned the United Nations that any aircraft using it would be fired at.

"The airlift is off today, and in view of recent developments and the security

situation at the airport it is unlikely that the airlift resume tomorrow or even the day after," a U.N. spokesman said.

Bosnian Radio reported that gas supplies had been interrupted again during Sunday night, but an official at one of the city's beleaguered hospitals said later: "There is some gas but the pressure is low."

Under an agreement brokered by the United Nations in Sarajevo, repair teams were expected to be allowed access to damaged electricity pylons around the city, while power would also be restored to Serb areas of Bosnia.

Since the Serbs who besiege Sarajevo cut off electricity and gas, life for the 300,000 residents of the city has reverted to basics.

Gas is the main cooking and heating fuel and supplies returned falteringly to parts of the city Monday after Bosnian Serbs agreed to ease the utilities blockade that has blighted life in the capital for the past 11 days.

The airport, the city's main aid gateway, remained closed after a Bosnian Serb officer warned the United Nations that any aircraft using it would be fired at.

"The airlift is off today, and in view of recent developments and the security

situation by the Security Council to impose tougher sanctions.

General Ratko Mladić, the chief of the Bosnian Serb Army, delivered a veiled threat Sunday to the U.N. troops, telling their commanders he could not take the responsibility for the safety of peacekeeping operations on his territory.

The main U.N. relief agency said food stocks in Sarajevo would run out in two weeks because Serbs had blocked aid convoys and U.N. humanitarian flights to the besieged capital.

"We have stocks of food for about two weeks," said a spokesman for the U.N. high commissioner for refugees.

One U.N. source said that "relations between Serbs and the United Nations are at their worst."

Bosnian Serb leaders showed no signs they were ready to reverse their opposition to the peace plan that would oblige them to cede war conquests.

They remain defiant in the face of a military blockade imposed by their former patrons in Serbian-led Yugoslavia and sanctions adopted by the Security Council tightening travel and trade restrictions on them.

International mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg headed for Belgrade for talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milošević and with Sweden's Bo Pöhlman, the head of an international mission sent to check the effectiveness of Mr. Milošević's blockade.

Mr. Pöhlman must provide Lord Owen and Mr. Stoltenberg with a report that the blockade is holding before the U.N. begins to relax sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Sanctions to be eased include re-establishing sports and cultural ties and reopening Belgrade airport to international flights. In Moscow, Russia's Aeroflot airline said it was ready to fly to Belgrade.

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In the middle we walk

SEEING our main streets without traffic lanes or sidewalks trimmed or removed altogether, or our pupils' crossing roads to and from school under the most hazardous conditions, makes us wonder about what is happening in this dear capital of ours. To begin with, the mayor of Amman, Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, deserves high marks for constructing the so-called "press" tunnel literally overnight in a bid to ease traffic pressure on University Road. The mayor may also deserve a medal for all his efforts to catch up with the rapid urbanisation of the capital. But he and his predecessors certainly get low marks for neglect of certain minimum street requirements such as building adequate sidewalks or proper crossing for children if not for the adult population and a uniform policy to divide all our thoroughfares into lanes so that motorists would learn not to drive haphazardly and everywhere. On these scores and similar ones no one can rightfully claim that there is no money. It will not tax the limited resources of the city if our sidewalks are made only for walking and not parking lots or dump sites for construction material. And why not legislate the width of sidewalks instead of leaving this matter completely up to the discretion of the mayor's office? Similarly making street crossings safe for our children does not and should not cost very much when there is a will to deal with it. Traffic lights, the normal procedure to regulate road crossings, could be too expensive should they be deployed all over Amman. In this case why doesn't the mayor ask the traffic police to pay attention to this danger instead of devoting 90 per cent of their previous time on slapping traffic tickets on drivers for illegal parking? Surely the mayor and his aides have seen how traffic police are used worldwide in the early hours of the morning in and around schools, public places and governmental buildings to assist people in crossing roads. All it takes is a telephone conversation with the chief of police in Amman asking him to assign traffic police in rush hours for the purpose of helping people cross streets when there are no traffic lights.

We are raising these issues because we need to find real solutions and believe funding for the treatment of these problems would not be too taxing. All that solutions need is recognition, awareness and the will to do something about them. This much we are entitled to expect from our municipal authorities.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN TROOPS' participation in peacekeeping efforts around the world is a source of deep pride to the Jordanian people, said Al Dastour in an editorial Monday. Upon seeing off the batch going to Haiti, His Majesty King Hussein made statements reflecting the feelings of all Jordanians, expressing pride in their mission and urging them to offer help to those who need it, said the daily. It is because the officers' mission is humanitarian in nature that it is a cause of pride to Jordan, which has already sent out troops on similar missions to Cambodia, Croatia and other troubled spots of the world, said the paper. The troops carrying out humanitarian missions are at the centre of appreciation of their kinsmen at home, especially as their actions have honoured Jordan and its people and won the respect of the world community in view of their courage and honesty, added the paper. As we see off another batch on another humanitarian mission, said the paper, we hope that its members will succeed in their mission and help Jordan to retain its image before the world.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour urged the Ministry of Finance to seriously examine the question of public funds due to the state Treasury in the form of taxes on real estate, customs fees and others. The country abounds with cases in which families with poor income are unable to pay the state taxes on their humble homes and the accumulation of fines on the taxes over the years. These are in need of a special treatment on the part of the ministry, which could set up a committee to help resolve the problem, said Ahmad Shaker. The writer said that a decision allowing the indebted persons to pay their dues by instalment would not be sufficient or fair to the needy people because what is needed is special treatment of humanitarian nature and special legislation to replace those rigorous regulations with flexible laws, enabling the public to pay its dues and the state to collect public funds.

The View from Fourth Circle

Band aids, window dressing and root causes of southern distress

By Rami G. Khouri

THE U.S.-led military/diplomatic storming of Haiti and the U.S. agreement earlier this month to accept tens of thousands of Cuban refugees every year have little to do with U.S. foreign policy but a lot to do with the underlying condition of states in the developing South of the planet.

The United States moved decisively on Haiti and Cuba primarily because of the fear of having to absorb a large and growing wave of black and Hispanic immigrants. All the talk by Washington of restoring democracy, ending human suffering, implementing United Nations resolutions or interdicting transit drug trade is perceived by most of the world, and probably by many Americans, as little more than after-the-fact window dressing. Today as in the recent past, the United States has easily accommodated itself and often even funded and allied itself with Third World regimes characterised by tyranny, human suffering, illegal trafficking in drugs, arms and sex and disdain for international legality.

The anxiety about having to absorb tens, or even hundreds of thousands of black and Hispanic migrants, is only slightly a reflection of American racism, because the United States is already a multi-racial society. We probably would see the same reaction if the United States were confronted with the spectre of having to absorb hundreds of thousands of, say, Christian, white Argentinians or Croats. The deeper fear, I suspect, was that had the flow of Cuban and Haitian migrants not been stopped or controlled, it could have unleashed a far greater torrent of illegal migration to the United States from other parts of the South.

Conditions around the southern world in recent years have improved for a small minority of people, usually comprising the wealthy, land-owning, politically connected elite with deep ties to the Western-dominated global corporate fraternity. The small middle class throughout the Third World has remained small or grown only nominally for the most part, while the majority of low-income and poor people have suffered increasingly severe pressures from inflation, unemployment, poverty, environmental stress and the general malaise of mediocre governance.

The deteriorating conditions that define the lives of a large number of people in the Third World — perhaps two billion of the south's four billion people — are further aggravated by projections into the future. The high rate of population increases in many developing countries, coupled with low real economic expansion and little attention to deteriorating environmental and natural resource bases, virtually assure that socio-economic distress for several billion people will be not only an episodic hazard, but rather a chronic, defining condition of life — and, for at least one billion people, an almost certain verdict of early death or lifelong destitution for their unborn children.

Two dynamics are at work here that prompt more and more people to flee the South for the comforts of the industrialised North, especially towards Western Europe and North America. The first is the gradually escalating

pressure on socio-economic quality of life, measured in lower purchasing power of family incomes, urban stress and increasingly difficult access to affordable housing, nutritious food and clean water. The second problem is the ultimate worst consequence of the first: The problem of societies and entire countries that collapse into civil war, ethnic strife, or sub-national fragmentation, usually because their systems of governance have proved totally incompetent, and sometimes because their very national configuration may be totally inappropriate (especially in Africa the Middle East, where most existing states were hand-made by retreating European colonial powers).

The result is that more and more people around the world are on the move, fleeing their own countries and ancestral lands, or driven out of their own homes by warfare and economic collapse. One of the most useful documents presented to the Cairo conference on population and development earlier this month was a report jointly compiled by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organisation, and the International Organisation for Migration. This first ever inter-agency attempt to define the scope, nature, causes and directions of international flows of migrants and refugees made several important points, notably:

A- The world's migrants and refugees now total around 130 million, or some 2.4 per cent of the population of the entire world. Of this total, around 20 million are refugees and asylum-seekers, 25 million are internally displaced, and 85 million are regular or irregular/illegal migrants.

B- The trend towards more human displacement is increasing, because post-cold war independence movements have led to outbreak of extreme nationalism, xenophobia and ethnic cleansing, and international communication and transport systems have made it easier for people to move. UNHCR estimates that some 10,000 people are made refugees every day.

C- The root causes of migration have expanded from the traditional quest for employment to causes such as poverty, political persecution, environmental degradation, ethnic tensions and the collapse of basic systems of governance, civil society and the essential services of urban life.

What this important report does not say, because of diplomatic courtesy, but which is the root question that the world must address more honestly, is: Why have some countries collapsed in recent years and generated sudden, massive, desperate waves of migrants and refugees? What are the underlying vulnerabilities and weaknesses that result in the spectacles we have witnessed recently in lands such as Bosnia, Somalia, Lebanon, Liberia, Rwanda, Algeria and Kuwait? The statistics are shocking, but the political realities behind the statistics are even more troubling.

In Rwanda, about 40 per cent of the seven million population was displaced or made refugees outside their country, and around half a million people died.

In Liberia, around one-fifth of the entire population is in

exile in adjacent states.

In Algeria, the government has just announced that 10,000 people have been killed in the last two years; tens of thousands of others have also been wounded or imprisoned while the economy has stagnated due to foreign exchange shortages and political tension.

In Lebanon, according to official government estimates released earlier this month for the first time, the civil war resulted in two-hundred thousand deaths, three-hundred thousand wounded, and nine-hundred thousand who fled the country; these figures represent, respectively, seven, 10 and 30 per cent of the entire Lebanese population. In other words, nearly half the Lebanese population died, was injured or became refugees during the 1975-1985 civil war.

In Kuwait, well over half the entire population fled or stayed out of the country after the Iraqi occupation in August 1990.

In Somalia, a land of seven million, over one million people died of drought, famine and warfare.

In Bosnia and former Yugoslavia, about two-hundred thousand people have been killed and over two million others have become refugees.

Other situations of severe national distress are in process in Russia, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Zaire, southern Mexico and other troubled lands, including, also, the South inside the North, i.e. the many inner cities in the United States that represent a Third World situation in terms of basic human development indicators. What we face today in many parts of the world is not the traditional problem of small pockets of refugees or migrants, but situation in which, routinely, between one-quarter and nearly one-half of a country's entire population faces death, injury, displacement, or exile.

These grave situations are noteworthy not only because of the sheer magnitude of national and communal dismay that they reflect, but also because they have happened on three continents and because they seem to be happening more, rather than less, regularly. The U.S. move into Haiti and its response to the Cuba situation, in this context, appear to be a fascinating test case of how the industrialised North may deal with the question of national incoherence in parts of the South. It is unlikely that the United States is really interested in much more than prophylactic or band aid actions to stop the flow of Southern refugees to its shores; at the same time, though, it is intriguing that the United States has defined its aims in Haiti and Cuba in terms that include democratisation, human rights and economic development for the Haitians.

This suggests a greater appreciation for the root causes of the problems of Haiti, Cuba and other distressed Southern societies; but it remains to be seen what role, if any, the United States and the industrialised north can play working with the people of the South to redress their socio-economic imbalances and reinvigorate patterns of national coherence and stability that seemed to work reasonably well in the old, pre-colonial days.

Hizbullah: Its aims and distorted image

By Maria Holt

THE RECENT bomb attacks against Israeli targets in Buenos Aires and London, together with the escalation of violence along the Lebanese-Israeli border, serve as a reminder of the existence of Hizbullah, the Party of God. Recently I spent a month in Lebanon carrying out research about Hizbullah and was able to gain first-hand insight into the group's ideology and workings. I discovered an unexpected eagerness to correct a distorted image in the Western media, of terrorism and fanaticism. Both, I think, are inaccurate, but much depends on perspective and also interpretation.

It is worthwhile to examine the roots of Shiite activism in Lebanon. When the last—indeed the only—Lebanese census was carried out, in 1932, the Shites were in the minority and the political arrangements which emerged with independence from France, in the shape of unwritten "National Pact" of 1943, allotted them a relatively small role in the power-sharing structure. They received the post of parliamentary speaker, at present occupied by Amal leader Nabih Berri.

Musa Sadr and Shiite revival

In the late 1950s, however, with the arrival in Lebanon of the charismatic Iranian-born cleric Musa Al Sadr, the Shiite community began to take a more active role in Lebanese affairs. To start with, Imam Al Sadr sought to gain social justice and greater equality for the Shites. In the 1960s he created the Movement of the deprived. Although he was keen to work within the Lebanese confessional system, his efforts largely unsuccessful.

One reason for his failure was the apparent unwillingness of the central government to accommodate Shiite aspirations. Another was the Palestinian presence in the south of Lebanon. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) committed to fighting Israel from Lebanese territory, showed scant concern for the welfare of the local Shiite villagers, who tended to bear the brunt of Israeli retaliation. As a result of

feelings of intense frustration, a Shiite militia developed out of the Movement of the Deprived. Known by its acronym Amal (Arabic for "hope"), it became a symbol of Shiite militancy.

In the 1970s three events had a profound effect on the Shites of Lebanon. The first was the outbreak of the Israeli occupation of a strip of southern Lebanon; however, retains top priority and, to this end, Hizbullah has maintained armed resistance activities in the south. In addition, with the formal ending of the civil war in 1990, the group consented to enter the parliamentary process. In the 1992 general election, it gained eight seats in the Lebanese parliament.

The organisation participates in Lebanese national life in ways which are political, military and, above all, social. It has established a network of social institutions throughout Lebanon, from hospital and schools to the very active Martyrs' Foundation, which provides services to the families Hizbullah martyrs and detainees and members of the resistance. There are present two well equipped hospitals run by Hizbullah, one in the southern suburbs of Beirut and the other in Baalbek, and another is planned for the south. Institutions have been set up to train nurses and teachers and a sponsorship project

to help the children of martyrs has been established.

Hizbullah and the Western media

But, in contrast to the situation on the ground, the relationship between Hizbullah and the Western media has been a stormy and generally incomprehending one. For the West, Hizbullah represents the "darkness" of Lebanon, the suicide bombings of Western targets, the kidnapping of individuals. Even today, when a bomb goes off in Lebanon or Buenos Aires, Hizbullah is top of the list of suspects.

It is important to distinguish between media images of "Islamic terrorism" and Hizbullah's real intentions. For all the above reasons, it would seem to say the least—short-sighted for Hizbullah to embark upon a campaign against Israeli targets abroad. The organisation's leadership has emphatically denied responsibility for the latest outrages and it is clear that, at present, its interests lie within the Lebanese political framework. They may not agree with all the government's objectives and would certainly prefer to reform the archaic confessional system, but, for the time being, have made the decision to operate within its confines.

Given the evidence, it is too simplistic, and even

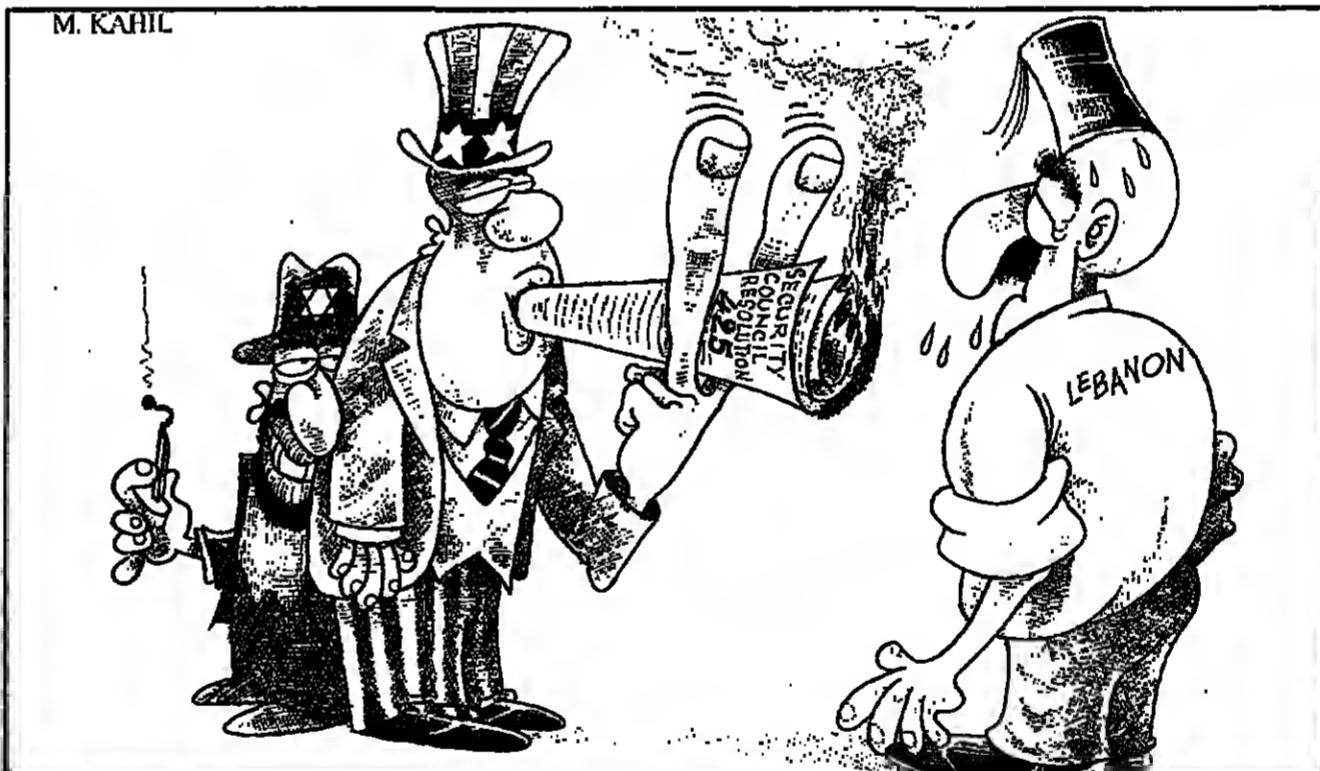
dangerous, to jump to automatic and highly public assumptions of Islamist guilt whenever a terrorist incident occurs. This merely inflames public opinion against Muslim communities in the West and does nothing whatsoever for the reputation of political parties in the Middle East, such as Hizbullah.

I met many ordinary Shites, male and female, who are fighting against the continued Israeli assault on their country. These actions range from the imposition of full-scale occupation in the south to regular attacks against selected targets outside the occupation zone, usually referred to as "terrorist bases," and also the routine terrorisation of the population.

Everyone, needless to say, expresses the heartfelt desire for peace but, they ask, peace on whose terms? Israel has shown very little inclination to negotiate on a genuine basis with Lebanon. It tends to bring in complicating factors, such as the presence of Syria in other parts of Lebanon or the activities of Islamic militants against Israel targets. What is disturbing, on the one hand, is the willingness of the Western media to accept Israeli accounts at face value; and on the other hand, the evident lack of interest by the international community in bringing this agonising conflict to a just conclusion.

After all, the longer it drags on the more entrenched the hatred on both sides becomes, particularly in the hearts of younger generations.

Middle East International



Yeltsin propo

Continued from page

11

Features

Jordan dismisses report

(Continued from page 1)

said the source without elaboration.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin also dampened the speculation, telling Israeli radio and television that the meeting "will not result in any breakthrough."

"Certainly some progress is being made in the negotiations, but we won't see real progress in several months," Mr. Beilin said.

That appeared to be more in line with an Israeli army radio report quoting Information Minister Jawad Al Anani as saying that progress has been made lately in Jordanian-Israeli bilateral negotiations and that the delegations were making arrangements for demarcating the border and sharing water.

Jordan has firmly stated that there could be a peace accord without addressing the Kingdom's territorial claims and its demand for its rightful share of water in the north.

Jordanian negotiators have said that they found their Israeli counterparts dragging their feet in the initial rounds of negotiations launched after the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25.

Analysts said the Israeli claims that a draft peace accord with Jordan was in the

making could be a bid to encourage Damascus to accept a meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharas and Mr. Peres at the U.N.

"Israeli reports and claims have always to be taken with a pinch of salt, particularly when it comes to the peace process these days," according to an analyst. "One has always to look critically at those reports and try to fathom the motivations behind them."

Efforts to arrange a Sharas-Peres meeting made headway during a visit to the Middle East of Washington's regional troubleshooter Dennis Ross last week, but the precise status of those efforts was not known.

In his comments to the Jordan Times on Monday, Dr. Minash said also denied reports that Jordanian and Israeli negotiators would meet at the Mediterranean town of Herzliya for the next round of talks in October.

"The precise venue for the talks has not been finalised, but I can tell you this: It won't be anywhere in an Israeli population centre," Dr. Minash said.

The talks are scheduled to begin on Oct. 10 and would last for two weeks alternating between Jordanian and Israeli venues. The Jordanian venue is expected to be the Dead Sea Spa Hotel, which has already hosted several rounds of negotiations.

Clinton lifts Haiti sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

killed 10 Haitian gunmen in the first clash between U.S. troops and Haitians.

An estimated 800 police, soldiers and "attaches," civilian gunmen attached to the army, were either hiding or fleeing.

The Marines, meanwhile, backed off their initial report that the Haitians fired first Saturday night in the deadly gunbattle outside a police station.

"One of our patrols saw a gesture by an individual with an Uzi machine gun. He took that individual out and a firefight began," said Col. Tom Jones, commanding officer of the Marine air-ground task force.

The lieutenant shot him when he made a gesture to raise his Uzi," Mr. Jones continued. He said he could not say who fired first. The gunfire broke out after an Echo Company platoon on its evening patrol stopped across the street from the police barracks.

A Haitian and an American wounded in the firefight were being treated on the USS Wasp, a U.S. helicopter assault ship.

Police and soldiers throughout the northern port city of 75,000 abandoned their posts sometime between Saturday night's firefight and dawn Sunday. Word spread quickly to the streets, and hundreds poured out to look at the empty buildings.

At the main military barracks, Haitians took everything they could get their hands on, even tubas and trombones, which they played in the streets.

Some people fired guns into the air, but many handed weapons over to some of the 1,900 U.S. Marines in Cap Haitien. One civilian even handed over a skull with a bullet hole.

Haitian army chief Gen. Raoul Cedras and Gen. Hugh Shelton, commander of the U.S. operation in Haiti, flew to Cap Haitien on Sunday for a brief inspection tour.

Col. Jones said Gen. Cedras accused the Marines of atrocities. Later, the armed forces condemned the clash as a "brutal and odious act."

Marines set up checkpoints across Cap Haitien, trying to keep the chaotic scene from

turning dangerous. Crowds caught at least two attacks, tied their hands behind their backs and turned them over to Marines. One of the men was severely beaten.

Pierre Peter, a political activist, said the crowds did not kill the two men to avoid tarnishing the name of Lavas, the political movement that supports Mr. Aristide.

Mr. Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, was overthrown by Gen. Cedras in a military coup in 1991. Gen. Cedras and his advisers, who have tolerated years of violence against Aristide supporters, promised last year to step down but did not, prompting the United Nations to impose strict sanctions against Haiti.

Gen. Cedras has now agreed to step down Oct. 15. In the last week, more than 10,000 U.S. troops arrived in Haiti, aiming to reduce the level of violence before Mr. Aristide's return.

U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said U.S. forces would provide security at the Haitian parliament, which was to meet Wednesday to consider an amnesty law for military leaders.

Mr. Schrager said the "illegitimate" lawmakers elected in a disputed January 1993 vote would not be allowed to enter the parliament. But he said U.S. forces would not go inside the building.

The U.S. spokesman added that the elected mayor of Port-au-Prince, Evans Paul, would assume office Thursday. Mr. Paul had been barred from taking office since the September 1991 coup.

In Port-au-Prince, hundreds of pro-U.S. demonstrators on Monday surrounded the police precinct headquarters where President Aristide was launched three years ago. They ringed the downtown building while U.S. troops moved in to secure it.

Hundreds more thronged outside army headquarters where Gen. Cedras met for two hours with U.S. Ambassador William Swing and Gen. Shelton.

The openness of the demonstrations at two of the most dangerous sites for pro-democracy supporters showed the rapidly eroding power of the military a week after the U.S. intervention.

Yeltsin proposes nuclear pact

(Continued from page 1)

Five major nuclear powers agree to new cuts in atomic missiles, to limit the production of enriched material used in nuclear weapons and to impose a complete ban on testing.

"This treaty would help break the biggest link in the nuclear chain and guarantee irreversible and predictable movements by all nuclear nations toward nuclear disarmament," the document said.

Russia and the United States agreed in the START II treaty to further slash their stocks of nuclear missiles but the new Russian parliament has yet to ratify the document.

Mr. Yeltsin would suggest

reuse of nuclear material which had been extracted from decommissioned atomic weapons.

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, due to be renegotiated in 1995, should be extended, the document said.

On Monday, U.S. President Bill Clinton in a wide-ranging speech focused on building new economic and political structures in the post cold war, announced a new plan to remove an estimated 85 million landmines in 62 countries used to kill and maim.

"I ask all nations to join with us and conclude an agreement to reduce the number and availability of



New arrivals of job-seekers from rural Chinese towns wait outside Beijing central train station. Faced with a growing influx of temporary residents, the Beijing authorities have decided to make outsiders pay for the privilege of living and working in Beijing (AFP photo)

China is one trigger happy country

By Philippe Massonnet
Agence France Presse

BEIJING — The gunman

issued by the police ministry in November outlawing military weapons in the shooting ranges.

"If the new regulation is violated, the shooting ranges will be closed and their owners penalised," according to the directive, aimed at curbing the burgeoning traffic in weapons.

However, almost a year later, the Russian-made Kalashnikov rifle is still being fired on the shooting ranges, as most of them belong to the Chinese army and are a valuable source of revenue.

The Beifang range receives about 100 customers a day, Chinese and fore-

igners, who each spend several hundred yuan (\$12 per 100 yuan).

"One firing of a rocket-launcher cost me 560 yuan," said one foreign resident who went last month.

About 100 kilometres south of Beijing, in Hebei province, is the famous Baigou market offering all sorts of items, from fake Rolex watches to real pistols, which one can buy and resell without a permit.

Ten people were killed and 40 injured in the attack in Beijing last Tuesday, when a Chinese army lieutenant, identified as Tian Mingjian, opened fire on cars at random with an AK-47 outside a compound

housing foreigners.

The rampage lasted for around 10 minutes before police reinforcements arrived and shot the killer dead.

Last month, the government launched yet another campaign against the illegal possession of firearms, ordering factories making civilian weapons to cease unauthorised sales.

But at a time when there is pride in making money and struggling state companies are trying to survive, it is feared that this order will be ignored as well.

A police crackdown in 1992 yielded 400,000 illegal weapons, 7,000 of which were military models, but

this failed to stop a growing traffic encouraged by the rise of Hong Kong and Taiwan-based triads in the country.

The Beijing Youth News described Thursday how the powerful Chinese mafia, such as the notorious 14K triad in Hong Kong, has been expanding its presence in the southern provinces for the last 10 years.

Violence and triad-supported gangs are polluting China, the paper said, citing law enforcement officials in southern Guangdong province, who said that "drugs and weapons traffic organised by the triads seriously threatens social order."

Many of the hold-ups and crimes committed in Hong Kong were committed with weapons stolen in China, according to police in the colony.

In a recent report on maritime trafficking in the first half of this year, Chinese customs officials expressed concern about the increased smuggling of firearms, although they released no figures.

The rise in the official crime rate, especially in armed attacks, confirms the increasing use of firearms, not only in the big cities but in smaller towns as well, which are frequently reported in local newspapers.

Watching Rwanda's distress, Burundi hopes — and fears — for own future

By Karin Davies
The Associated Press

BUJUMBURA, Burundi —

President Cyprien Ntaryamira, a Hutu, died on April 6 with his Burundian counterpart, plowing Burundi into political and economic chaos.

All international aid to Burundi has been suspended until a new president is named. Industrial production has dropped by a quarter, and by next month, the government may not be able to meet its payroll.

The national assembly is scheduled to choose a new president this week — and odds are it's 81 members will play it safe and stick with Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, the caretaker leader since April.

Diplomatic sources say the number of ethnic killings is rising in the north and east, where Hutu extremists reportedly attack in small bands and take refugee in forests. The army retaliates.

In Bujumbura, young Tutsis order general strikes, shutting down the capital while they terrorise Hutus at makeshift roadblocks. Fifteen Hutus were killed in two days of violence in August.

On Sept. 13, Hutus attacked military posts in the mostly Hutu suburb of Kigeme, killing two soldiers and wounding four. Officially, 61 civilians were killed in reprisal, but local residents listed the names of nearly 400 dead Hutus.

In the past 11 months, the leader of the biggest Hutu party, the Burundi Democratic Front, has tried to mollify the Tutsi opposition and Tutsi-led army. His efforts have been complicated by the arrival of more than 200,000 Rwandan Hutus seeking safe-

haven in Patriotic Front, which installed a new government in Kigali.

"We have to heal the wounds, to get people to tolerate each other, to settle their differences," the caretaker president, Ntibantunganya, said. "Without peace, nothing can be accomplished."

Backing from the army, however, is crucial. The defense ministry's Ndahirubusa said the army will support Mr. Ntibantunganya. But extremists within the army's ranks have turned on Hutu leaders in the past.

"In Burundi it isn't one ethnic group against the other, Hutus against Tutsis. It is brother against brother, extremist versus moderates," said Charles Mukasi, a Hutu who leads the Union for National Progress (UPRONA), the biggest Tutsi party.

Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative who has worked to steady tempers in Burundi since December, is nonetheless cautiously optimistic about Burundi's future.

"I think having a president and a government will have an immediate impact because it will end the ambitions. I want to be prime minister. It signals a return to normalcy," Mr. Abdallah said.

He warned that the killings would not end. But most expect the violence to remain at a persistent but low level.

"I don't think this is going to be another Rwanda," said Shelly Pittermann, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees representative in Bujumbura. "The security situation is very unstable. There can be violence here or there at anything. But I don't think there will be generalised violence."



A Hutu refugee mother carrying her child waits for a consultation at the Red Cross dispensary of the Kibumba camp north of Goma. The fear of similar tragedies could be keeping the guns silent in Burundi (AFP photo)

Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1994

Financial Markets Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 23/9/94	Tokyo Close Date 26/9/94
Sterling Pound*	1.5778	1.5771
Deutsche Mark	1.5488	1.5543
Swiss Franc	1.2865	1.2881
French Franc	5.2935	5.3132**
Japanese Yen	97.83	97.86
European Currency Unit	1.2330	1.2290**

* USD per STG

** European Opened or 1000 JPY per USD

Euromoney Interest Rates Date: 26/9/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	4.93	5.37	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.18	5.56	6.00	7.12
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.87	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.62	3.75	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.16	2.16	2.25	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.51	6.18	6.84

Interest rate for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 26/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980
Sterling Pound	1.0959	1.1014
Deutsche Mark	0.4475	0.4497
Swiss Franc	8.5397	8.5424
French Franc	0.1309	0.1316
Japanese Yen	0.7107	0.7143
Dutch Guilder	0.3992	0.4012
Swedish Krona	0.0466	0.0466
Italian Lira*	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	4.4444	4.4444

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 26/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8300	1.8490
Lebanese Lira*	0.040945	0.042050
Saudi Riyal	0.1853	0.1871
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3490
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Oman Riyal	1.7870	1.8150
UAE Dirham	0.1858	0.1898
Greek Drachma*	0.2730	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.3920	1.5000

* Per 100

Reckitt and Colman forges on into U.S. with L and F Household

LONDON (AFP) — Reckitt and Colman (R.C.), the British food and personal care products group, Monday forged ahead into the U.S. household products market with the purchase of L and F Household from Eastman Kodak for \$1.55 billion in cash.

The deal will give R.C., whose products include Harpic cleaner and Steradent mouthwash, some of America's best-known household brands including the top-selling disinfectant Lysol.

The British group, which entered the U.S. market in 1990 with the \$1.2 billion purchase of Boyle-Midway,

will hike its percentage of sales made in the United States from 26 to 35 per cent as a result of the deal.

The purchase, which is conditional, will be financed by a combination of bank borrowings and a \$400 million three-stage disposals programme which involves selling Colman's mustard and other British food brands.

R.C. said it that it would fund the takeover partly with a 500 pence per share to raise £230 million (\$312 million) net of expenses — a discount of 19.6 per cent from the Friday closing price of 598 pence.

"Since most of them are new to this market, they will be looking for agents and distributors to establish their presence in the region," he said.

"More than 50 French firms,

Lebanese agents showed

thousands of products —

from gold-plated door han-

drles to giant diggers — at a

week-long infrastructure ex-

position in Beirut which en-

died Sunday.

"Everybody wants a slice

of the pie," said Youssef

Shinwary, sales manager with

Sehnaoui plant, agents for

Britain's Massey Ferguson

and O.K., Krupp from Ger-

many and Italy's Italmac-

chine.

"One company said it had

the answer for the shell-

shattered, bullet-scarred

buildings that still give much

of Beirut a faded battlefield

air four years after the 1975-90

civil war ended.

"It's GFRC — facade clad-

ding panels of glassfibre rein-

forced cement," said John

Al Baladi of the Beirut firm

Betonfor at Lebanon's first

big infrastructure exhibition

since the war.

He displayed "before and

after" photographs of Lon-

don big projects due to

get underway as an airport

expansion and construction

of motorways, ring roads,

power stations, a sports city,

a big hospital, a new university

campus and a conference

centre.

"International firms will

come for these projects,"

said Mr. Shinwary, standing

beside the biggest item on

display — a 16-metre-high

forklift.

The thousands of exhibits

range from British excavato-

rs to British systems for roof-

tops.

International firms vie for Lebanon rebuilding

BEIRUT (R) — Businessmen from around the world are seeking a slice of a multi-billion dollar programme to restore Beirut from a smashed-up battleground to its former glory.

Western firms and

Lebanese agents showed

thousands of products —

from gold-plated door han-

drles to giant diggers — at a

week-long infrastructure ex-

position in Beirut which en-

died Sunday.

Competing companies ex-

pect sales of materials and

machinery to rocket once the

\$3 billion Solidere company

rebuilding central Beirut

starts infrastructure work.

Solidere is due to award a

contract on Oct. 10 for the

first stage of work on its 1.8

million square metres site.

Bids range from \$63 to \$136

million.

Other big projects due to

get underway as an airport

expansion and construction

of motorways, ring roads,

power stations, a sports city,

a big hospital, a new university

campus and a conference

centre.

"I think Beirut will want to

get back to being a modern,

vibrant city again," said Mr.

Crix, whose firm sells pro-

ducts related to sealants for

expansion joints of big glass

buildings and water proofing

systems for rooftops.

The 25-year redevelopment

plan symbolically launc-

hed last week with the leav-

ing of a foundation stone by

President Elias Hrawi, in-

cludes an avenue wider than

the Champs Elysees in Paris.

"The 25-year redevelopment

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the Champs Elysees in Paris.

The 25-year redevelopment

plan symbolically launc-

hed last week with the leav-

ing of a foundation stone by</p

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 23/9/94	Tokyo Close Date 26/9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5978	1.5771
Deutsche Mark	1.5488	1.5543
Swiss Franc	1.2865	1.2881
French Franc	5.2935	5.3132*
Japanese Yen	97.83	97.86
European Currency Unit	1.2330	1.2290**

120 Per STG

European Opening & 220 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	4.93	5.37	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.18	5.56	6.00	7.12
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.87	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.62	3.75	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.18	2.25	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.61	6.16	6.84

Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin, Date: 26/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980
Sterling Pound	1.0959	1.1014
Deutsche Mark	0.4475	0.4497
Swiss Franc	8.5597	8.5424
French Franc	0.1309	0.1316
Japanese Yen	0.7107	0.7143
Dutch Guilder	0.3992	0.4012
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 26/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8300	1.8490
Lebanese Lira*	0.040945	0.040750
Saudi Riyal	0.1853	0.1871
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3490
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7870	1.8150
UAE Dirhama	0.1858	0.1898
Greek Drachma*	0.2730	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.3920	1.5000

** Per 100

Reckitt and Colman forges on into U.S. with L and F Household

LONDON (AFP) — Reckitt and Colman (R.C.), the British food and personal care products group, Monday forged ahead into the U.S. household products market with the purchase of L and F Household from Eastman Kodak for \$1.55 billion in cash.

The deal will give R.C., whose products include Harpic cleaner and Steradent mouthwash, some of America's best-known household brands including the top-selling disinfectant Lysol.

The British group, which entered the U.S. market in 1990 with the \$1.2 billion purchase of Boyle-Midway.

will hike its percentage of sales made in the United States from 26 to 35 per cent as a result of the deal.

The purchase, which is conditional, will be financed by a combination of bank borrowings and \$400 million three-stage disposals programme which involves selling Colman's mustard and other British food brands.

R.C. said it that it would fund the takeover partly with a 1-for-8 rights issue priced at 500 pence per share to raise £230 million (\$312 million) net of expenses — a discount of 19.6 per cent from the Friday closing price of 598 pence.

"Expo France in Dubai

nains to give participants a surefire spring board to reach across the highly potential marketplace in this region," said their spokesman Benoit De Guernon, general manager of Exportart.

"Since most of them are new to this market, they will be looking for agents and distributors to establish their presence in the region," he added.

More than 600 companies from 30 countries will exhibit their products at the Nov. 16-20 annual fair. China, Taiwan, Malaysia, India, Singapore and Hong Kong and the United States are the main participants in the show.

He displayed "before and after" photographs of Lon-

French firms to push into Arab Gulf market

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — French companies will seek agents in the Gulf as part of a drive to find new export outlets and offset recession at home and other markets, company officials have said.

More than 50 French firms, mostly newcomers to the oil-rich Gulf, will display a wide range of products at an international fair in Dubai in November, the biggest consumer show in the region, organisers said.

"Everybody wants a slice of the pie," said Youssef Shinyara, sales manager with Sennouai plant, agents for Britain's Massey Ferguson and O.K. Krupp from Germany and Italy's Italmacchine.

One company said it had the answer for the shell-shattered, bullet-scarred buildings that still give much of Beirut a faded battlefield air four years after the 1975-90 civil war ended.

"It's GFRC — facade cladding panels of glass fibre reinforced cement," said John Baladi of the Beirut firm Betonar at Lebanon's first big infrastructure exhibition since the war.

He displayed "before and after" photographs of Lon-

don buildings that received GFRC treatment, saying damaged houses looked as good as new.

"You will not recognise them," he said. "People not wanting to spend more can fill the bullet holes with regular cement but GFRC gives such a beautiful facade."

Competing companies expect sales of materials and machinery to rocket once the \$3 billion Solidere company rebuilding central Beirut starts infrastructure work.

Solidere is due to award a contract on Oct. 10 for the first stage of work on its 1.8 million square metres site. Bids range from \$63 to \$136 million.

Other big projects due to get underway are an airport expansion and construction of motorways, ring roads, power stations, a sports city, a big hospital, a new university campus and a conference centre.

"International firms will come for these projects," said Mr. Shinyara, standing beside the biggest item on display — a 16-metre-high forklift.

The thousands of exhibits range from British excavators

to Backhoe loaders and drilling hammers to gold-plated door handles from Italy.

"All these companies are awaiting the rebuilding of Beirut to begin to sell equipment and products," said Jean Francois Megarbane, sales officer for a company distributing equipment for a string of Western companies.

Beirut's new centre will mix old and new.

"You will still see the traditional buildings in central Beirut but you will also start to see modern big glass buildings like you see in Dubai," said Gordon Crix of B.R. Goodrich's Dubai-based venture Tremco.

The 25-year redevelopment plan symbolically launched last week with the laying of a foundation stone by President Elias Hrawi, includes an avenue wider than the Champs Elysees in Paris.

"I think Beirut will want to get back to being a modern, vibrant city again," said Mr. Crix, whose firm sells products related to sealants for expansion joints of big glass buildings and water proofing systems for rooftops.

Foreign investment in China focuses on industry

BELIJING (AFP) — The number of foreign-funded firms in China grew 12.6 per cent to 188,600 from January to June, with industrial investment speeding up as inputs into the real estate sector slowed, Xinhua reported.

The agency quoted Chinese State Administration for Industry and Commerce officials as saying some 15,512 foreign-funded industrial enterprises had been registered in the first half of the year.

The figure was three percentage points higher than in the same period last year and accounted for 69.45 per cent of total foreign investment, it said, adding that inputs into real estate had fallen four percentage points, making up 12.34 per cent of the total.

The officials acknowledged that investment remained very uneven, with most foreign firms are still choosing to locate in China's relatively developed coastal areas rather than backward inland regions.

The inland areas of Guizhou, Qinghai, Tibet and Xinjiang each registered fewer than 100 overseas-funded projects in the first six months of the year, the report said.

The officials said investors were increasingly opting for whole-owned ventures, with the number of such projects registered in the first half of the year exceeding 6,400.

According to foreign trade ministry figures, the number of foreign investment projects approved by China in the first half of the year fell by 40 per cent over the same period last year, with officials attributing the trend in part to improvements in the quality of ventures.

The authorities have in the past year stepped up efforts to attract funds for key industries and infrastructure while moving to clampdown on excessive investment in non-productive areas like real estate.

In a separate dispatch, Xinhua said the number of private enterprises in China had risen to 328,000 by the end of June, up 37.9 per cent over the end of last year.

Their registered capital hit more than 100 billion yuan (\$11.8 billion) and the number of employees rose to 5,008 million people, up 34.4 per cent on Dec., it said.

Meanwhile, China is to open its chemical sector wider to foreigners in a bid to attract \$10 billion of overseas funds by 2000, Xinhua news agency quoted industry sources as saying.

Under a new policy now under consideration, shares of foreign investors in chemical joint ventures will not be restricted if they offer "genuine" technology and products, like new pesticides, engineer plastics, fine chemical products and high-grade dyestuffs, the report said.

Foreign investors in the chemical industry are at present not allowed to buy more than 49 per cent of a domestic enterprise.

They must also export a designated proportion of their products, but the officials said that under the new policy this requirement would be waived for attractive chemical ventures.

The agency quoted ministerial sources as saying the government would in particular encourage investment in large-scale products involving coal chemicals, petrochemicals and natural gas.

Minister of the Chemical Industry Gu Xilin said China was targeting annual chemical exports of \$10 billion by the turn of the century.

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Japan, China set to grapple over Taiwan's invitation to Asian Games

TOKYO (R) — Japan Monday signalled it would tough it out with China in an increasingly acrimonious dispute over invitations to let Taiwanese officials attend the opening of the Asian Games, officials said here Monday.

Only six days before the grand ceremonies, a foreign ministry official said: "We have no intention of changing our set policy on this matter."

And government spokesman Kozo Igarashi confirmed that Vice Prime Minister Hsu Li-Teh would be among three Taiwanese invited to the region's biggest sports show.

"The two peoples (of Japan and China) hope that the games will go ahead in a pleasant manner," the spokesman said, without further comment.

China has been piling the pressure on Japan to scrap the invitation to the three officials, seeing in it an ominous encouragement to the "renegade" Chinese province of Taiwan.

It has warned of a "deterritorialization" in Sino-Japanese

ties, and even of a boycott of the games — planned as a showcase for China's emergence as an athletic superpower — if the Taiwanese officials show up.

The warning was spiced with a reminder of Japan's atrocities in pre-war and wartime Asia.

Japan's apparent steadfastness is a remarkable contrast with its traditionally supple response to China. It has traditionally taken care to irk China on the Taiwan question, ever since it recognized Beijing in 1972 as the sole legitimate government of China.

The first concrete result of the spat has been China's decision to scrap the arrival of Sports Minister Li Teying, a politburo member, Saturday at the head of the Chinese delegation to the Hiroshima Games.

"We were informed of the cancellation by the Chinese embassy," said Makoto Sakai, secretary-general of the Japan-China Friendship Association, which had been linked to the visit.

"It said Taiwan is trying to exploit sport for political ends, and that Japan has not upheld" its 1972 undertakings, Sakai said. "The embassy told us that the government and the Chinese people could not tolerate this."

While the Japanese government does not seriously believe that China will snub the games, the cancellation of Li's visit goes beyond the mere realm of sport.

Li, who is also a member of the state council in charge of the commission for restructuring the economy, was also scheduled to meet Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and several of his predecessors, including Nohoru Takeshita, Toshiki Kaifu and Tsutomu Hata.

In addition, China has already notched up a victory from the Japanese point of view, China's focus on Hsu is incomprehensible, given that the official is after all president of the Taiwan Olympic Committee.

The financial daily Nihon Keizai also reported a further repercussion: Beijing has told Tokyo to postpone a visit to China, scheduled for the end of this week, by the minister of international trade and industry, Ryutaro Hashimoto.

A number of Japanese commentators predict that Murayama's intended visit to China, set to take place by

the end of the year, will run into problems.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono was to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Monday, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, in a bid to defuse the quarrel.

A Japanese diplomat, speaking on condition that he not be identified, said Tokyo felt it was the unwitting victim of an inter-Chinese squabble, and was increasingly irritated at being placed under pressure from Beijing.

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Argentine's Boca Juniors win at last

Buenos Aires (R) — Boca Juniors won for the first time in the current Argentine soccer championship when they beat Deportivo Espanol 3-1 at the weekend.

Boca, with two uninspiring draws and a defeat in their previous three games in the Apertura championship, appeared to be on the way to incurring the wrath of their fans once again when they fell behind in the sixth minute to a goal by striker Roberto Oste.

But first-half goals by Uruguayan striker Ruben da Silva, Alejandro Faria and Alberto Maricio turned the game around, to the relief of beleaguered coach Cesar Luis Menotti.

South American champions Velez Sarsfield kept up their 100 per cent record with a 2-1 win away to Mandiyu which put them two points clear at the top of the table.

Second-placed Huracan and Independiente, champions of the 1993-94 Clasura tournament which finished in August, both lost for the first time.

But first-half goals by Uruguayan striker Ruben da Silva, Alejandro Faria and Alberto Maricio turned the game around, to the relief of beleaguered coach Cesar Luis Menotti.

Group A was won by Corinthians, who beat Criciúma 3-2 with goals by World Cup striker Viola, former international and Tonino striker Walter Casagrande

Palmeiras wins for 9th time in 10 games

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Palmeiras won for the ninth time in 10 matches as what critics called a meaningless first stage of the Brazilian soccer championship came to an end at the weekend.

Palmeiras came from behind to beat Parana 4-2 away to finish the first stage top of Group D with 19 points out of a possible 20.

With the score at 2-2, striker Edmundo hit the decisive goal for Palmeiras in the 79th minute. Midfielder Maurilio sealed success with the fourth goal three minutes from time.

Palmeiras take a bonus point into the second stage as their reward for finishing top of the group.

Group B was won by Corinthians, who beat Criciúma 3-2 with goals by World Cup striker Viola, former international and Tonino striker Walter Casagrande

and central defender Henrique.

Flamengo finished second in the group after beating Sport Recife 3-0 at the Maracana Stadium, striker Savio scoring a hat-trick inside 16 minutes in the second half.

Botafogo won the bonus point in Group B despite losing 2-0 away to Vitoria, who had been previously without a win, while Guarani beat Cruzeiro 2-1 away to win Group C.

Also in Group C, Vasco da Gama fielded a reserve side in their home game with Bahia because the first team was in South Korea on an excursion to bring in cash for the club.

The reserves lost 3-2 in front of just 328 fans. Vasco had already qualified for the second round.

Referee Garcia insisted it was "my duty to protect the fighter" and was backed up

by top British referee Larry O'Connell, who has officiated in 25 world title fights.

"Leono was gone, you could see that by the way he tried to get up," said O'Connell.

"You've got to remember we're dealing with big powerful heavyweights, not just kids. The referee's action was right in my opinion."

While American promoter Dan Duvu prepared a formal protest to be heard next month, McCall and his advisors were making the most of a result which has totally altered the heavyweight picture.

McCall said he had spoken to Tyson by phone before and after the fight and irresponsible American promoter Don King confirmed the pair were likely to meet once the former champion had been released from custody.

In the meantime, opportunities are looming for another British heavyweight Frank Bruno and his promoter Mickey Duff after King gleefully dismissed the possibility of granting Lewis a swift rematch.

"The chances of a rematch are between him and none and him out of town," quipped King. "We'd much prefer to fight Bruno because he's a gentleman. We've been talking to our friend Mr. Duff. If he honours some commitments, Frank will get a chance."

King also took the opportunity to blast Lewis's adviser.

He had decided to shift his fighting base from Britain to the U.S. but, assuming a rematch with McCall is not forthcoming, is now being lined up by Duvu to meet the winner of the Michael Moorer-George Foreman fight Nov. 5.

Doohan wins Argentine Grand Prix

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Seaso champion Michael Doohan of Australia Sunday confirmed his supremacy in the 500cc category with an easy victory in the Argentine Motocycling Grand Prix.

Doohan, 29, took the lead on the fifth lap and never gave it up.

He guided his Honda around the 27-round, 117.45 km Oscar Galvez Municipal Raceway in a time of 48 minutes, 12.812 seconds and at an average speed of 146.162 kph.

American Doug Chandler, riding an Italian-made Cagiva, John Kocinski — who took pole position after posting the best timings on Friday's and Saturday's practice sessions — was third, 16.969 seconds, after the champion.

Doohan wrapped up the title when he won the Czech Grand Prix earlier this month. Sunday's victory was his ninth of the season.

The only incident in the race was when Kevin Mitchell from Britain suffered a spectacular fall from his Yamaha on the first curve after the start.

He was taken from the course on a stretcher but was not seriously injured.

In a very competitive 250cc race, Japan's Tadayuki Okada, riding a Honda, made a spectacular comeback to win the race. He had a time of 45 minutes, 09.167 seconds.

Okada took the lead on the second lap and was passed by Italy's Loris Capirossi on a Honda on the sixth. But the Japanese recovered the lead again on the 14th round and fought hard to keep it down to the end of the race.

Capirossi, who took pole position, finished fifth behind Okada, Italy's Massimiliano Biaggi, Japan's Tetsuya Harada and France's Jean-Philippe Ruggia.

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Sports

Monument to late Brazilian champ Ayrton Senna unveiled in Estoril

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — A monument to the late three-time Formula One champion Ayrton Senna was unveiled Sunday at the Estoril Circuit where the Brazilian won his first Formula One race in 1985.

Senna, who died May 1 after a high-speed crash at the Italian Grand Prix in Imola, Italy, was an adopted favorite son of Portuguese fans and owned a home near the Estoril Circuit.

The 3.5-metre (11.5-foot) white marble pillar was inaugurated before Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix next to the sweeping "Parabolica" bend, now renamed the "Senna Curve," in a ceremony attended by Brazil's ambassador to Portugal, Jose Aparecido de Oliveira, and Senna's former girlfriend, Adriane Galisteu.



Brazilian Adriane Galisteu (centre), companion of the late Ayrton Senna of Brazil, reflects with fans and friends of the Formula One pilot during a ceremony at the Ayrton Senna Monument near the Estoril racetrack Sunday (AFP photo).

A brass plate fronting the pillar bore Senna's own thoughts on the risks of his high-speed profession:

Capriati says she contemplated suicide

NEW YORK (AP) — Burned out by tennis and despairing over her appearance and relationships, Jennifer Capriati says she once thought about killing herself.

In an interview published Monday in the New York Times, Capriati spoke of a tennis career that began spectacularly at age 13 but left her in anguish four years later.

Her problems came to a head after losing in the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open. She had nightmares after losing in the open in 1991 and began crying incessantly after this latest loss.

"I started out OK, but at the end of the match I couldn't wait to get off the court," she told the newspaper. "Totally, mentally, I just lost it, and obviously it goes deeper than that one match."

"I really was not happy with myself, my tennis, my life, my parents, my coaches, my friends... When I looked in my mirror, I actually saw this distorted image. I was so ugly and fat, I just wanted to kill myself, really."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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GETTING IT BACKWARD

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♦ 8 4	♦ J 9 3 2	♦ A Q J 5 4 2	♦ A 9 8 4 2
♦ K 10 9	♦ A Q 5 4 2	♦ 9 3	♦ 7 5 3
♦ A 9 8 4 2	♦ 8	♦ 7 5 3	♦ A 7 6 5
♦ 7	♦ 10 5	♦ 7	♦ 4 A Q 6 4 2
♦ 6	♦ 4	♦ 5	♦ Pass
♦ Pass	♦ Pass	♦ Pass	♦ Pass

The bidding: North East South West
Pass 3+ 3+ 3+ 3+
4+ Pass 5+ Pass
Pass Pass

Cheating alleged at Asian soccer tournament

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Asian football was reeling Monday, following official allegations of widespread cheating at the Asian Under-19 championships in Jakarta.

On Sunday, Syria beat Japan 2-1 in the final.

But Syria's triumph was clouded by Asian Football Confederation chief Peter Velappan's claim that "almost all participating teams" in the championships had fielded over-age players.

Velappan refused to identify the teams but said officials of those under suspicion had been ordered to produce, by October 31, school, military and employment records for all their players.

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Germany's tennis future looks bleak after Davis Cup defeat

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Germany's future as a Davis Cup power looks bleak following its semifinal defeat by Russia. Disputes involving players and the federation are rippling the team.

The Brazilian switched to Williams-Renault this year but was killed when his car crashed at more than 300 kph (180 mph).

Near the monument souvenir stands were doing a brisk trade in T-shirts and flags commemorating Senna's death.

Seat cushions with the driver's name, replicas of his green and yellow helmet, and even T-shirts of a cartoon "Senninha" Portuguese for "Little Senna" also were offered.

When our last day comes, it will come. It could be today or in 50 years time, but one thing is sure — it will arrive.

Senna won his first Grand Prix in Portugal in 1985, driving a Lotus. He went on to win world championships in 1988, 1989 and 1991 for McLaren.

Russia completed a 4-1 victory over the defending champion Sunday. Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Michael Stich 7-5, 6-3, while Bernd Karpacher scored Germany's only point, beating Alexander Volkov 6-4, 6-1.

Russia had already made

sure of reaching its first Davis Cup final by sweeping the opening singles and winning Saturday's doubles.

With Stich and Boris Becker, Germany would have one of the strongest teams in the world. Becker, however, has refused to play for Germany the last two years and Stich now says he too may quit.

"I will give the German Tennis Federation a list of things that have to be fulfilled, otherwise I won't play any more," Stich said.

"I like playing Davis Cup but we'll have to wait and see what happens," he said.

After a meeting Sunday with Stich, federation officials said he would play next year.

Stich blasted federation officials for what he said were inadequate security measures following a death threat he received before the match against Russia.

The death threat turned out to be a hoax, Stich said the man, who introduced himself as a Becker fan, called him back a day later to apologize, saying the threat

was a joke.

The threat cast a cloud over the semifinal match at the Rothenbaum club, where Monica Seles was stabbed in the back in April 1993 by a spectator who jumped from the stands. Seles, who was then the top-ranked woman player in the world, has not played since.

Stich accused the German Tennis Federation (DTB) of not taking the threat seriously and of failing to deal with the problem in a professional manner.

The federation defended its security measures, and said Stich was not aware of the 17 plainclothes policemen who were on duty at the court.

The death threat turned out to be a hoax, Stich said the man, who introduced himself as a Becker fan, called him back a day later to apologize, saying the threat

was a joke.

Even if the dispute over the threat is quickly forgotten, there are other problems.

For the first time in a decade, a Davis Cup match in Germany was not sold out.

German captain Niki Pilic and the players wanted to play in an indoor hall on a fast carpet.

But the DTB, which is based in Hamburg, picked its home arena at Rothenbaum and installed a new hard court over the usual clay surface.

The hard court was similar to the surface on which Stich reached the final of the U.S. Open earlier this month.

It did not help. Stich was upset by Volkov Friday, before he learned that the death threat was a hoax.

"I don't want to look for



German Michael Stich leaves the centre court in Hamburg after losing to Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-5, 6-3 during the Davis Cup World Group semifinals Sunday (AFP photo)

excuses, but this was the first time in 12 years that my team did not play on the surface that I wanted," said Pilic, whose team lost at home for the first time since the 1985 final.

Germany, led by Becker, won in 1988 and 1989, while Stich guided the team to the title last year.

Becker's return seems uncertain. Stich, who has feuded with Becker in the past, and Pilic say he is welcome back, but only if he plays the entire year and not only in the later rounds.

Federation chiefs, aware that Becker remains the biggest drawing card for German fans, want Becker to return, even if he plays only one or two rounds. They have publicly chided Pilic for his uncompromising position.

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Peres assails critics of Arafat

CAIRO (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Monday accused critics of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat of failing to offer any viable alternatives to the Palestinian people.

"Those who criticise should ask themselves: What did they achieve? They kept the Palestinian tragedy intact for so many years," Mr. Peres told the English-language weekly Middle East Times, published in Cairo.

"They refused to have a state when they could have it. They created the refugee problem, which was totally unnecessary. What is their claim to glory? Their only claim is to gloom, not glory," he said.

Palestinian hardliners have accused Mr. Arafat of adopting an authoritarian attitude and surrendering to Israeli demands.

Several hardline groups, including the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, are opposed to the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles signed in Washington last September and the May 4 accord which launched limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Mr. Peres, a key architect of the autonomy deal, expressed support for Mr. Arafat's measures to curb anti-Israeli violence.

"I am satisfied with the growing understanding of Arafat to improve his response. They are trying to endanger his rule more than ours," Mr. Peres said, referring to recent arrest of Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin clinched an agreement Sunday to launch talks on the second stage of autonomy in a week's time, during a meeting at the checkpoint into the Gaza Strip.

The negotiations would include Palestinian elections, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from built-up Palestinian areas, border crossings, security issues and the spread of autonomy beyond Gaza and Jericho across the West Bank.

Referring to the Israeli-Syrian track of the peace process, Mr. Peres criticised Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's refusal to meet Mr. Rabin.

"Our part is open and their part is resisting ... I don't understand why, when we negotiate peace, we have to remain shy. Why?

"We are not negotiating something that is unfair or clandestine. It would be more than normal to meet and talk. The Syrian side doesn't want to have this sort of relationship," he said.



FEAR OF PLAGUE: A barber, his nose and mouth covered with a cloth attends a customer in his street-side shop in Surat where a deadly outbreak of pneumonic plague has claimed some 75 lives (see page 4) (AFP photo)

Prospects dim for quick lifting of Iraq sanctions

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A tougher Clinton administration line combined with U.N. Security Council consensus means a lifting of the crippling sanctions on Iraq may still be a long way off, according to the respected Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

The Cyprus-based newsletter said that the previous expectation that the four-year-old oil and trade embargo could be removed as early as mid-1995 is now unlikely.

The pessimistic assessment comes despite intensive lobbying by Iraq for an end to the embargo imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 for what was to become a seven-month occupation.

The Baghdad regime blames the sanctions for its devastated economy, rising crime, widespread malnourishment and skyrocketing infant mortality even though the sanctions allow import of humanitarian needs.

On Sunday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the government was reducing public food rations due to the economic difficulties. INA did not give any figures, but French-based Radio Monte Carlo said some rations were being halved.

The monthly ration for individuals is three kilogrammes of rice, 1½ kilogrammes of sugar, 750 grammes of cooking oil and nine kilogrammes of flour.

INA quoted the ruling Baath Party daily, Al Thawra, Monday as saying that

Washington and its allies want to "annihilate the life (of the people) by blocking food and medicine for the past four years."

It added that by sacrificing "a piece of bread" Iraqis would "surprise the world with more austerity, economising, patience and steadfastness."

MEES reported that Baghdad's state Oil Marketing Organisation this month telecast traditional buyers of Iraqi oil to pressure the United Nations for a lifting of the embargo.

U.N. Security Council resolutions stipulate that the sanctions must stay until Iraq meets demands related to the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction, which Baghdad claims it has done.

But MEES said it had detected a tougher stance in Washington over the past few months since Iraq policy became the domain of the National Security Council rather than the State Department.

"It is now becoming more apparent than ever that the U.S. administration is determined, without saying so publicly, to retain the sanctions as long as the present regime in Baghdad remains in power," the newsletter said.

Röld Ekeus beards the U.N. group entrusted with destroying Iraq's big weapons systems, under the terms of the U.N. Security Council's 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

The resolution states that the oil embargo will stay till the Security Council agrees

(Continued on page 2)

Sudan not another Haiti, warns Khartoum

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan is not another Haiti, warned the Sudanese culture and information minister on Sunday, in response to a call by an Egyptian journalist for the Khartoum regime to be overthrown.

The Sudanese people reject interference in their affairs and are capable of defending their homeland and if there is any power that believes that it can topple or appoint a government," said the minister, Abdul Basit Sabdar.

"Sudan is not another Haiti," he added.

Mr. Sabdar's statement was published in the official government newspaper Al Engaz Al Watani.

In an article published in the Saturday edition of Egypt's Al Akhbar Al Youm newspaper, the paper's editor, Ibrahim Saada, called for a military intervention in Sudan to overthrow General Hassan Al Bashir's pro-Islamic regime.

Mr. Saada is known to be close to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"If the United States rapidly intervened to save the people of neighbouring Haiti from a corrupt regime, the Sudanese people have the right to expect a similar action from their strong neighbour, Egypt," Mr. Saada wrote.

Mr. Sabdar Sunday called Mr. Saada's comments "paid articles aimed at clouding relations between the two countries."

If the article reflected the Egyptian government line, it would be "a grave matter," he added.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese embassy in Cairo Sunday published a statement denouncing "this unjust attack on Sudan, which jeopardises all efforts at improving relations" between the two countries.

The fate of the settlements is due to be negotiated after

Fatah prepares for self-rule polls

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mainstream Fatah movement has started preparing for the first general Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the group said in a statement on Monday.

Fatah's higher movement committee, which met in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Sunday night, set up a committee to prepare for the group's participation in the elections.

"Based on the ministerial council's decision to immediately start preparations for legislative elections, the higher committee (of Fatah) announced the establishment of a preparatory committee for elections," a statement issued after the meeting said.

The two sides have differences beyond the deadline. Palestinians demand elections for a 100-member council with legislative and executive powers, while Israel insists on a 30-member administrative body.

There are also internal Palestinian differences on this issue, with critics demanding a debate on the electoral system before election laws are finalised.

Under the original deal the elections were to be held in July, but Mr. Arafat only arrived in the Gaza Strip that month. Various dates in October and December have since been proposed and changed.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said on Israel Radio Monday that he did not think the deal demanded the withdrawal of police, only army soldiers. He said he thought police should stay, especially in areas where Palestinians and Israelis live or travel in close proximity.

No one is sure how to solve the problem of Hebron, where 450 Jews live in the midst of 10,000 Palestinians.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin noted that the initial accord stipulated that the steps needed would all be worked out in an interim agreement.

Settlers threaten to declare independence

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Some Jewish settlements will proclaim their "independence" in the occupied territories if Israel tries to remove them, an extreme right-wing leader warned Monday.

"If the Rabin government decides to evacuate settlements on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip then several will declare their independence," said Binyamin Kahane, who runs the anti-Arab Kahane Hai movement.

"I will continue my struggle against this evil government which is capable of anything, including eliminating me," vowed 34-year-old Mr. Kahane.

Kahane said the settlers had drawn up a divorce blueprint under which "Fergie" would forfeit the title her royal highness which she gained on her marriage eight years ago to Queen Elizabeth's second son. "Everything should be in place for the divorce before the end of the year," the unnamed courtier was quoted as saying. The report came only two days after the duchess's father, Ronald Ferguson, suggested, in a rival tabloid the Daily Mail that Fergie might be heading for a reconciliation with Prince Andrew, a naval pilot.

Meanwhile, the authorities released the head of the Kach movement on Monday, but put him under house arrest, six months after he was held for praising the Hebron mosque massacre, police said.

Dozens of fellow settlers, his wife and five children were outside the Hasharon prison near Tel Aviv to greet Baruch Marzel.

"I will continue my struggle against this evil government which is capable of anything, including eliminating me," vowed 34-year-old Marzel.

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The Daily Express said courtiers had dismissed the suggestion as "wishful thinking" and also quoted the duchess's secretary as ruling out a reconciliation.

Police had to intervene to halt fighting outside the jail between Kach followers and a Palestinian family. One Kach man was arrested.

The fate of the settlements is due to be negotiated after

Iran asks veterans to train

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Monday ordered veterans to report for military training amid warnings here that a dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over three Gulf islands could end in war.

Vice-President Hassan Habibi said government employees who had fought in the 1980-1988 war with Iraq should report to authorities between Tuesday and Thursday to find out which bases they would be assigned to for training.

Mr. Habibi's order published Monday in Iranian newspapers, made no mention of the dispute with the UAE.

But Iranian leaders, marking the 14th anniversary of the start of the Iran-Iraq war, have denounced the UAE in the past week for its repeated claims of sovereignty over Ahmara, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb.

The Iranian daily Hamshahri warned Monday that UAE television monitored in southern Iran had "stopped its regular programmes to broadcast military marches and manoeuvres as well as speeches" by the emir urging combat readiness.

Warning of a U.S. plot and deteriorating relations with the UAE, the political and military leaders have said

repeatedly that the army was "at the height of its readiness" to defend the country against a "new aggression."

Speaker of Parliament Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri vowed last week that Iranians would defend the islands "with force and determination until the last drop of their blood."

Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi reaffirmed his country's sovereignty over the islands, which he said "belonged to Iran even before the UAE existed as an independent country."

"Remember what happened to Iraq: A country more important and militarily stronger than all of you put together," he warned referring to the Gulf Arab states which have backed UAE's claims over the islands.

The UAE accused Iran of annexing Abu Musa in 1992, which since 1971 had been jointly administered by Tehran and the UAE emirate of Sharjah in line with a British-Iranian agreement.

Abu Dhabi later went on to claim the other islands which together with Abu Musa lie at the entrance to the vital Hormuz strait in the Gulf.

Negotiations opened in September 1992 in Abu Dhabi, but broke down after

Tehran refused to discuss the status of the islands.

The dispute has marred the once cordial political ties, but economic relations remained intact.

The UAE has called for the conflict to be resolved at the International Court of Justice, but the Islamic republic refused saying it would not negotiate over its territory.

Despite the threats against the UAE and other Gulf Arab states, Iranian leaders and official media have blamed the United States as the "main provocateur" in the dispute and accused Washington of seeking to destabilise the region.

"The UAE is trying to push us into a confrontation with the Islamic republic," warned the English-language daily, Tehran Times. "This is justifying the sale of weapons to the Arabs and the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf."

Jomhuri Islami newspaper, for its part, warned "the Arab sheikhs not to fall into the trap set up by the United States."

"It is not in the interest of UAE leaders to climb down the well with Washington's frayed rope," said the daily close to Islamic hardliners.

Column

Bush in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Former President George Bush, in a side-long criticism of Bill Clinton, said Monday that "stop and start" policies could lead to heightened aggression in a world of increasing turbulence. Mr. Bush, on a two-day visit to Germany, basked in a praise for his role in German unification four years ago. He is to receive full military honours in Bonn Monday when he arrives for talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The Germans credit Mr. Bush with recognising early on that east and west Germany would reunify after the collapse of Eastern European communism in late 1989. In a speech Sunday evening on America's role in the world, Mr. Bush did not directly criticise President Clinton's foreign policy actions, but he used phrases that critics wield against Mr. Clinton. "We must lead — not in a way in which we appear to vacillate, to stop and start." Mr. Bush said to an audience of some 500 people from the German elite, including President Roman Herzog, and foreign dignitaries. His speech was sponsored by the Aspen Institute, a think tank based in Aspen, Colorado, that is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its branch in Berlin. In a 35-minute speech, Mr. Bush said the world scene was much more promising than during the cold war, yet reawakened nationalism, ethnic conflicts, extremism and proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons were persistent and dangerous problems.

Some Palestinian security bodies have deployed agents in the still Israeli-occupied areas of the West Bank.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin noted that the initial accord stipulated that the steps needed would all be worked out in an interim agreement.

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